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Islamic Affairs

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 7 Apr

NC1204084495

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 7 April edition of the Arabic-language newspaper AL-SHA'B that pertain to political Islamic issues.

CONTENTS:

1. Islamists Win Teachers Clubs Elections
2. Case of Detained Humanitarian Aid Workers Viewed
3. Aftermath of 22 Mar Attack on Train Detailed
4. Accused Islamic Figure Refutes Charges Against Him
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6. Detained Cairo University Students Released
7. Washington Seminar Discusses Political Islam
8. Writer Urges Halt to Violence in Upper Egypt

ISLAMISTS WIN TEACHERS CLUBS ELECTIONS

A 200-word report on page 1 by 'Abd-al-Hayy Muhammad says that the Islamists won the election to the teachers clubs in al-Zaqaziq and al-Mansurah Universities. It says that the Islamists won the five contested seats in al-Zaqaziq University and also the five contested seats in al-Mansurah University despite the efforts made by the latter's administration to drop the Islamists list.

CASE OF DETAINED HUMANITARIAN AID WORKERS VIEWED

In a 700-word report published on pages 1 and 6, correspondent Khalid Yunus details the latest developments in the case of those arrested for exploiting the Doctors Association's Humanitarian Relief Committee [HRC] to send Islamists abroad for military training. The report says that the detainees' defense lawyers asked the court to hear the testimonies of several public figures, including Shaykh Muhammad al-Ghazali, al-Azhar envoy to Bosnia Shaykh Jamal Qutb, and Fahmi Huwaydi, who travelled to Bosnia and witnessed the HRC's work there. While reporting that the interrogation of those arrested continued, the correspondent says that interrogation of "Husayn al-Sharqawi, director of the HRC office in Zenesta, Bosnia, was postponed for the third time because of his deteriorating health as a result of the torture he was subjected to." The report then cites a statement issued by the defense panel accusing the authorities of "seizing private funds or those earmarked for legitimate actions in an attempt to deceive public opinion into believing that these authorities have succeeded in capturing an organization." The panel appealed to the president "to intervene and stop publication of false reports about the case and to bring about political reforms by stopping random arrests, torture, and fabrication of charges."

AFTERMATH OF 22 MARCH ATTACK ON TRAIN DETAILED

An unattributed report on page 2 details the aftermath of the attack on the train travelling between al-Minya and Asyut on 22 March in which six persons were killed and three injured. Drawing heavily on interviews with the train driver and some passengers, the report details the attack by four gunmen who boarded the train and started to check the identities of the passengers, after which several shots were heard before the gunmen stopped the train and fled. The report adds that the security forces launched a major campaign of revenge against the villages in the area, burned hundreds of acres of sugar cane fields, and arrested a number of persons. It says that the campaign included Labor Party members and mentions that the security forces arrested eight members in Mallawi after having earlier arrested five members and then released two of them. The report also says that the security forces "arrested 33- year-old 'Ali Muhammad Ashraf Isma'il, a member of the Islamic Group, in al-Minya", who was a fugitive for two years. His wife is cited as saying that her husband is "facing physical liquidation, especially as the security organs denied they arrested him, though the arrest was witnessed by several people." The report then says that the wife and her father were later arrested. It adds that several villages were then raided and a number of students were arrested.

ACCUSED ISLAMIC FIGURE REFUTES CHARGES AGAINST HIM

The paper publishes on page 2 the text of a message received by fax from Dr. Ashraf 'Abd-al-Ghaffar, member of the Doctors Association and of the Humanitarian Relief Committee, who the authorities say is wanted for involvement in using the HRC as a cover for sending extremists abroad for military training. In his article, 'Abd-al-Ghaffar says he was surprised to read about the "fabricated" allegations against him, the Doctors Association, and the HRC, and details how he first heard about them when he was on a humanitarian mission in Central Asia. He claims that a person arrested at the airport before travelling to Albania to work with another humanitarian relief agency was subjected "to terrible torture involving the use of electric shocks and hot and cold water showers and was shown a person who was with him the day before and who died from torture to scare him. He was also forced to see the rape of two detainees and told that this would be his fate if he did not cooperate." He adds that this person followed the orders to testify falsely against and implicate the article writer. He then says that he returned to Egypt in late January 1995 and then left to perform the minor pilgrimage when he heard that the security organs were looking for him and watching his house. He criticized the way his house was raided and his personal belongings were taken from him, including "the money for house expenses, a fax machine, an unused telephone index, and computer discs of his children's games that the authorities claim contained secret plans." He stresses that his work was public and known to the public in general and to officials from the prime minister to ministers, the Arab League, and various ambassadors, and that this work involved purely humanitarian aid. He also stresses that the Doctors Association and the HRC funds were audited and no discrepancies were found. He concludes by saying that he will return to Egypt when he finishes his work abroad to face these accusations, adding that he has full confidence in Egypt's justice.

REPORT ON KHARTOUM'S ISLAMIC POPULAR CONFERENCE

A 5,000-word article by 'Adil Husayn on page 5 views the Islamic Popular Conference held in Khartoum, Sudan, between 30 March and 2 April. The article, however, begins with a review of the issue of Israel's nuclear force, which he says threatens the Islamic and Arab nations, led by Egypt. He then criticizes the "partnership" with the United States, warning that it would only be tragic for Egypt. The writer then moves on to say that the Khartoum conference was a reply to the challenge facing the Islamic nation. He cites parts of the major speeches made, especially the one by Hasan al-Turabi, leader of Sudan's Islamic Front, and the efforts made by Sudanese officials to prepare for the conference, but he stresses the fact that "these officials did not take part in it to stress the popular character of the conference." He then details the efforts made by al-Turabi and the conference secretariat general to help resolve the main issues facing the Muslims, including those of Palestine, Somalia, Algeria, Yemen, and Afghanistan. The writer then dwells on the meetings he held on the sidelines of the conference, including ones with the representatives of Islamic Jihad in Palestine and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Front] at a time when there was extreme worry over the explosion in Gaza that killed six persons, including three Hamas members. He cites Khalid Mash'al, the Hamas representative, as telling him "that Hamas will never be the one that starts the conflict within the Palestinian ranks and that it will remain extremely patient over the provocations." Hizballah's representative Shaykh Na'im Qasim is quoted as saying that "the number of volunteers for suicidal missions exceeds the number needed." The writer then goes on to list some of the representatives he met, such as Fatah Central Committee member Hani al-Hasan, Algeria's Islamic Salvation Front representative Haddam, and former Jordanian interior minister Ahmad 'Ubaydayt, and quotes from their speeches to the conference.

DETAINED CAIRO UNIVERSITY STUDENTS RELEASED

A 100-word unattributed report on page 6 says the authorities released 12 Cairo University students arrested after protesting the arrest of four Islamist students who won a court ruling to stay in the students' hostels provided by the university.

WASHINGTON SEMINAR DISCUSSES POLITICAL ISLAM

An unattributed 3,000-word feature on page 9 carries the second and final part of a report on "The Dialogue" seminar held in Washington about "The Spread of Islam in the Middle East." This part is mostly devoted to the views and arguments of Professor John Esposito, author of the book "The Islamic Threat: Myth or Fact?" He says that the incidents in the past two decades, including the Iranian revolution and attacks on Western embassies, bolstered the view of Political Islam as Islamic extremism threatening the Middle East's regional stability and Western interests in the Islamic world. He says: "How do we understand this extensive phenomenon in the Islamic world? Many believe that Islam or the Islamic movements are not necessarily a problem but regard the terrorists as a problem." He voices his belief that there is "a definite difference between the extremists and those who have more moderate and realistic needs and requirements that must be met." He adds that there are many moderate groups besides the extremist ones and these are social and political forces that contribute to educational and social prosperity, manage services and facilities, and help within the social framework. "We have started to see a new generation of a religious elite appearing alongside the secular one. We do forget this when we depict them as extremists." He notes that these groups want to participate in the political systems through elections. He criticizes the regimes that open the political process to the various forces but suppress the Islamic movements at the first hurdle or when an important opposition force arises, as was the cases in Algeria, Tunisia, and Egypt. He says that the absence of "a differentiation between the moderate and extremist Islamists leads to dangers and uncalculated results." He cites the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt and the Islamic Group in Pakistan who challenged the regimes at times. Taking the example of Egypt, he says: "If we look at the situation there now, I believe that it is important to differentiate between the Islamic Group and the Muslim Brotherhood. If this differentiation is not made and if both are placed indiscriminately in one basket, then there will be great dangers that contribute to extremism." He also notes that the turn toward religion and God is not restricted to the Islamic world and also warns the West against ignoring the views and concepts of others and making the Western views the criteria for everything. He argues next that allowing the Islamic groups to practice a strong opposition would compel the fundamentalists to rethink their concepts.

Professor (Dawn) then talks and voices his agreement with Esposito and praises the work of Islamic movements, adding that these movements are working to develop society. He says that those raising the "slogan of Islam is the solution" must be given the opportunity to implement it to see whether their programs will help strengthen democracy and promote political practices.

WRITER URGES END TO VIOLENCE IN UPPER EGYPT

A 300-word column by Mahmud Bakri on page 12 says that the daily killing of policemen and Islamists has turned the al-Minya and other governorates into a war front inside the homeland. He adds that those ill treated soon turn into angry and vengeful people and a new danger to security. The writer then says that "the great tragedy is that the danger is now threatening hundreds of thousands of young men in al-Minya and other Upper Egypt governorates. Violence, fear, and lack of safety is implanting the seeds of doubts and suspicions and destroying ambitions and dreams. The only loser from all this is the homeland." He urges an "immediate halt to the shedding of blood by both sides" and the search for solutions to spare the nation any more tragedies. He calls on those loyal to their country to mobilize all their efforts to stop the fire that is almost destroying the entire homeland, he adds.

Palestinian Affairs

PA Releases Hamas, Islamic Jihad, DFLP Activists

30 Hamas Members Let Go

TA1504114995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 15 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Palestinian police last night released 30 Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Islamic Jihad activists arrested in the last few days after the terrorist attacks at the beginning of the week. The prosecutor general of the Palestinian Authority [PA], Khalid al-Kidri, said this morning that 'Abdallah al-Shami, one of the Jihad leaders, will not be brought before a special security court tomorrow morning because his interrogation has not yet been completed. His family says the Supreme Court in Gaza ordered al-Shami's release, but the Palestinian police are refusing to obey the order.

'Another 50' Hamas Activists Released

TA1804045095 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 18 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Gaza, the Palestinian Authority [PA] has released another 50 Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists arrested last week after the two suicide bombings near Jewish settlements. At the same time, secret contacts are continuing between senior PA and Hamas officials. Palestinian sources tell Qol Yisra'el the release of the 50 Hamas activists is aimed at bringing about at least a temporary halt to Hamas terrorist attacks within the self-rule area.

A firebomb was thrown at an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] vehicle near the military government building in Hebron. The bottle of fuel shattered on the road. A search of the area uncovered three more firebombs.

Security forces found two explosive charges ready for detonating during a search of an Arab house in Hebron yesterday. A bomb expert detonated the explosives without causing any casualties or damage. One IDF soldier was very lightly injured in the hand during a stoning incident in Bethlehem. He received first aid and returned to his unit.

7 DFLP Detainees Released

TA1804083595 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0700 GMT 18 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Palestinian Authority [PA] has released seven members of Nayif Hawatimah's Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] who were detained for over a month. Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that the seven were detained during the wave of arrests against the DFLP following the attack on an oil tanker at Nahal 'Oz. One of the guards was killed and the other was wounded in the attack. Over 20 DFLP activists are still under detention.

Islamic Jihad, Hamas Activists Receive Sentences

Islamic Jihad Activist Gets 15 Years

TA1504172795 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 15 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The special state security court in Gaza sentenced 'Aziz al-Shami, an Islamic Jihad activist, to 15 years imprisonment after convicting him of incitement and offenses against state security.

Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that it is the court's third conviction of Islamic Jihad activists since its inception. The Gaza Strip's prosecutor general Khalid al-Kidrah said that the trial of Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Shami, the Islamic Jihad spokesman, will not start tomorrow because his interrogation has not been completed.

The Palestinian Authority [PA] calls on all factions to open a national dialogue in order to work out a consensus. The PA today discussed the security situation in the Gaza Strip, the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] redeployment on the West Bank, and the deadlock in the peace talks. Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that Muhammad al-Nashashibi, the PA's finance minister, said that a preparatory conference of donor states will convene in Paris at the end of the month to discuss aid to the Palestinians, after which the actual conference will be convened.

Hamas 'Terrorists' Receive 2-Year Terms

TA1604082495 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 16 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] This morning, the Gaza special military court imposed a two-year prison term on two Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] members who were wanted for, among other things, terrorist acts in which IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers were killed. The two terrorists, Muhammad Abu-Shamalah and Ra'id al-'Atar, were detained by the Palestinian police and accused of having trained 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam squad terrorists. Our correspondent Dani Zaqen reports that they were involved in incidents in which two IDF soldiers were killed at the Morag and Kissufim junctions.

Hamas Member Gets 7-Year Prison Term

TA1704110095 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 17 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activist has been sentenced to seven years, the highest term handed down on Hamas so far by a special military court set up by Yasir 'Arafat in the Gaza Strip. He is Muhammad Simri, aged 28, an uncle of the man caught driving a truckload of explosives near Beersheba. He was charged with complicity in the transfer of explosives from Gaza to Israel.

Al-Qidrah Comments on Trials of Islamic Activists

TA1704113795 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 17 Apr 95 p 1

[Report by Mikhal Sela']

[FBIS Translated Text] The Gaza supreme court for state security meted out two-year prison sentences yesterday to Muhammad Abu-Shamalah and Ra'id al-'Atar, Palestinians from the Rafah region. They were arrested four months ago, after a clash between Palestinian policemen and 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam activists in which policeman Yusri al-Hamis was shot and killed.

The two were convicted of holding illegal drills using unlicensed weapons. "There was not enough evidence to convict them of murdering the policeman," Palestinian Authority [PA] Attorney General Khalid al-Qidrah told DAVAR yesterday. "No one is sentenced to two years in prison for murder. We are a state of law. I do not understand why the Israeli media publishes incorrect information that harms the PA," he said.

Radio reports yesterday said that the two killed al-Hamis and took parts in attacks against IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers, including shooting at a foot patrol in the Morag area in which one soldier was killed and two wounded.

Referring to the current detentions and trials in the Gaza Strip, al-Qidrah said they are being carried out to protect the security of Israelis and Palestinians. "Trials take place here every day in both the civilian courts and the state security court. We wish to provide the Palestinian people with security while honoring the agreements we signed. The peace agreement with Israel is an expression of the Palestinians' supreme political strategy. Anyone harming it is harming the Palestinians," he said.

He added that "violence in al forms is basically wrong and harms Palestinian national security. The PA will in no way allow a double regime or a regime within a regime. We will allow no individual or organization to take the law into its own hands. These are matters of principle that are connected with our tasks as a democratic state. This is why we decided to confiscate illegally held weapons. We gave a 30-day deadline, after which anyone holding an unlicensed weapon will be sentenced to two years in prison."

Reacting to charges by Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists that people are being arrested for their political views, al-Qidrah stressed: "No one is being detained for his stands or political affiliations. Only those suspected of conducting activities that might harm security are being detained. We have detained many, and intensive investigations are being conducted. The investigations are being conducted quickly for two reasons: One, we want to make certain that no one is held in custody without sufficient reason. Anyone questioned and cleared of suspicions of violating the law is released at once. The second reason is our desire to enforce the law quickly. Once we have completed the interrogation of a suspect and the investigation into his case, he is immediately put on trial."

Recently published reports have claimed that the investigation of Islamic Jihad activist 'Abdallah al-Shami is over but the police will not release him. Al-Qidrah denies the reports completely. "Al-Shami is being held in custody because his interrogation is not over. We hold no one without a reason. We never promised to put him on trial this week or at any specific time."

Al-Qidrah believes that of the hundreds who have been detained, approximately 30 will be tried soon, provided sufficient cause is found during the investigation of their case. The rest will be released following interrogation.

Al-Qidrah was very critical of the way the Israeli media reports about PA events. "Very often, the media carries imprecise reports. One gets the impression that there is a deliberate attempt to incite against the PA. When incorrect information is published, citing unofficial sources, it harms the PA, and this should not happen."

Hamas, PA To Hold 'Secret Meetings' To Diffuse Tension

JN1604182895 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 16 Apr 95

[Report by Basim Abu-Sumayyah in the occupied territories]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Representatives from the Hamas [Islamic Resistance] Movement and the Fatah Movement will hold a meeting in Gaza this evening within the context of exclusive meetings between the two sides to reach an agreement on ending the tension in the Gaza Strip.

A responsible Palestinian Authority [PA] source said that the Hamas Movement has asked for secret meetings with the PA to terminate the crisis. Therefore, the first meeting is expected to be held this evening.

The PA has set as conditions a commitment by the opposition, specifically Hamas and the Islamic Jihad Movement, not to carry out armed operations against Israel from within the PA territory, respect for the agreements the PLO has signed with Israel, and applying law and order.

The PA released 50 Hamas members today who were arrested last Sunday following two suicide attacks in the Gaza Strip which killed eight Israelis and wounded more than 50. [passage omitted]

Talks Said Inconclusive

TA1704155095 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1500 GMT 17 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Representatives of the Palestinian Authority [PA] and the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] have been meeting secretly to reach an agreement to prevent attacks against Israelis, but a Qol Yisra'el reporter says so far the talks have not been conclusive. Taking part in the meetings was Zakariya al-Agha from the PA and Sayyid Abu-Musamih on the Hamas side. The two sides have held two meetings since last week's twin attacks against Israelis in the Gaza Strip.

Hamas Leader Rejects 'Arafat Demand To Stop Attacks

TA1704085295 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 17 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] No conciliation has been achieved so far between the Palestinian Authority [PA] on the one hand and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and the Islamic Jihad in the Gaza Strip on the other. Dr. Mahmud al-Zahhar, one of Hamas' leaders, says that he cannot accept Yasir 'Arafat's demand that he undertake to end the terror attacks against Israel. According to al-Zahhar the decision on this issue should be made by Hamas' military arm. Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that al-Zahhar also rejects 'Arafat's demand that Hamas embrace the Oslo agreement as a condition for an agreement between Hamas and the PA.

Hamas' Ghawshah: PA Has Crossed 'Red Line'

NC1704172795 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 14 Apr 95 p 1, 6

[Report by Muhammad Jamal 'Arafah]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] An official of the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, in Jordan has told AL-SHA'B that the number of detainees belonging to Hamas and the al-Jihad Movement in Gaza so far totals 300, including approximately 50 al-Jihad members. He said that the Palestinian Authority [PA] is continuing its arrest campaign, attacking families who support Hamas and disarming Hamas members so that their weapons will not be used in operations against the Zionist occupation and thus threaten a civil war. He said that Hamas will not allow anyone to disarm its members, because their weapons are basically directed at the Zionist enemy.

Meanwhile, Ibrahim Ghawshah, the Hamas official spokesman, has accused the PA of total complicity in implementing the Zionist schemes and instructions to quell, arrest, and disarm the Islamists. He said: Hamas is launching military operations against Israel. Its jihad operations will not stop nor will it allow any force to stop it, even the PA, which is backed by the Zionists and the U.S. Administration. He said that the PA has crossed the "red line," which Hamas has repeatedly warned against. He added: The PA has to bear the grave consequences of this behavior.

In an exclusive statement to AL-SHA'B last week, Ghawshah said that the PA's crossing of the red line will make Hamas' task of controlling its cadres difficult, noting that Hamas youths will not forever be patient with these attacks on them. [passage omitted]

Islamic Jihad Leader: 'We Will Not Give Up Our Arms'

JN1404194795 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1756 GMT 14 Apr 95

[Interview with Fathi al-Shaqaqi, secretary general of the Islamic Jihad Movement, by Thana' al-Imam in Damascus; date not given; from "The Event" program—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [al-Imam] Dr. Fathi al-Shaqaqi, secretary general of the Islamic Jihad: How would you justify the continued military operations under the Palestinian National Authority [PNA]? One can understand the continued operations in the West Bank, which is still under occupation, but why in Gaza?

[Al-Shaqaqi] Gaza is not under a national Palestinian authority. Gaza is still under Israeli sovereignty and Israeli occupation. What are settlers doing there? They occupy over 40 percent of the Gaza Strip and exploit half of its water. What are the soldiers doing there? They enter and leave the Gaza Strip whenever they want. Who killed Hani 'Abid? Who blew up the apartment in the Shaykh Radwan district? All this proves that Gaza is not under Palestinian authority. Rather it is under Israeli sovereignty. When Gaza comes under a Palestinian authority, any Palestinian authority, with no settlements, Mosad, or occupation army, then we will halt our operations inside the Gaza Strip only. As of now, Gaza is not under Palestinian sovereignty or authority. Rather, the Israelis are controlling it strategically and at all other levels.

[Al-Imam] But there is a violent Israeli reaction after every operation, especially in terms of imposing an economic and military siege, with the Palestinian people being harmed most.

[Al-Shaqaqi] First, this is a war. We have been experiencing war for 75 years. We have been suffering for 75 years. We have seen in the Gaza Strip the fruit of the peace they are talking about. It is much worse than war. It is much worse than fighting. The economic, security, and freedom suffering is increasing. The Israeli reactions are not in response to operations only. Rather, they are part of the Zionist strategy to get rid of the burdens and the hell of Gaza without leaving Gaza, and to keep Gaza under its strategic control. The delay in implementing agreements and humiliating the Palestinians preceded even the wave of the recent military operations.

[Al-Imam] 'Arafat recently accused you of carrying out operations, especially the recent ones, upon instructions from abroad to undermine the PNA.

[Al-Shaqaqi] Did he also receive orders from abroad when he resisted the Zionists in the past? This is a ridiculous and regrettable charge. Resisting the occupation does not need orders. He who offers his soul for the sake of his sacred homeland and sacred cause is not ready to hear any order from abroad. The Palestinian people, who are the most lively phenomenon in the region, influence everyone else and attempt to impose their vision on others, not vice versa. It is also regrettable that the one making the charge says that we receive weapons from the Zionist enemy. He does not ask himself why, if weapons are smuggled to us, the price of a piece of armament in the Gaza Strip and other areas reaches $10,000. It is a ridiculous charge which may fool those who do not know the nature of the situation in occupied Palestine. However, our people ridicule those charges.

[Al-Imam] Finally, Dr. Fathi al-Shaqaqi: How do you view the PNA decision to strike at, pursue, and detain the armed groups that carry out operations, and to collect arms? Do you believe such measures would lead to inter-Palestinian confrontations?

[Al-Shaqaqi] First of all, the arms will not be removed. They have been our sacred arms for 75 years, with which we have resisted the British occupation and the Zionist occupation. We will resist every occupation. We will not give up our arms in any case whatsoever. Arms will remain with us until the removal of the occupation. If they want us not to open fire in the Gaza Strip, let the settlers and soldiers leave at once. As for the question of civil war, we are doing our best not to arrive at such a point.

Detained Leader Reportedly To Quit Islamic Jihad

JN1604125995 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 16 Apr 95

[Report by Basim Abu-Sumayyah in Gaza]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] Informed sources say that Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Shami, an Islamic Jihad leader detained in a Gaza prison, has recently sent a letter to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat expressing his wish to quit party work, coexist with the Palestinian Authority, and devote himself to purely religious matters.

PFLP-GC's Jibril on Measures Against Opposition

JN1504121695 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 0930 GMT 15 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine—General Command [PFLP-GC] held a central speech rally at al-Yarmuk camp in Damascus yesterday afternoon on the 30th anniversary of its founding. [passage omitted]

PFLP-GC Secretary General Ahmad Jibril delivered a national speech in which he spoke of the front's 30-year struggle. [passage omitted]

Speaking of the Oslo agreement, Ahmad Jibril said: The Oslo negotiations were just a bridge to conclude an alliance with the Zionist enemy. As evidence of this, it suffices to mention Shim'on Peres' statement when he said: We were negotiating with ourselves.

Jibril added: One and half years have passed since the agreement was signed, and, as yet, the detainees have not been released. This agreement paved the way for the confiscation of land, judaization of Jerusalem, activatation of settlement activities, and encroachment on the land in the West Bank and Jerusalem.

Jibril added: The enemy brought 'Arafat to Gaza to have him carry out a repressive role, to stalk the mujahidin and conspire against the intifadah and its perpetuation. After this, the Zionists concluded the Wadi al-'Arabah agreement with King Husayn. Jibril added: Those who seek to use 'Arafat's role to justify to themselves the conclusion of agreements with the enemy will be committing a mistake because our people have nothing to do with this agreement and those who signed it. Our people will never forgive them.

Jibril said that the Zionists have penetrated the Arab front, from Wadi al-'Arabah to deep within the Arab nation's heart, from the Gulf shores to the shores of the Atlantic Ocean, to open the door to the Middle East market and the hegemony of the U.S. Zionist axis on our region.

Ahmad Jibril said: The battle is a protracted one and there are many enemies. We have to benefit from the march of the contemporary revolution so that the Islamic trend will not become vain as a result of its lofty and splendid achievements. We must avoid past mistakes and benefit from the leftwing's experience and the results it has obtained from the belief that thanks to its alliance with the socialist bloc it can alone lead the nation without seeking close alliances with the other militant trends. [passage omitted]

In his speech, Ahmad Jibril said there is need to continue and escalate the intifadah to topple the Oslo agreement, to pursue armed confrontation against the Zionist enemy in and outside the occupied homeland, and to resort to a national, pan-Arab, and Islamic culture that is hostile to the normalization policy. He said: We must work for our people's unity in Palestine, in the 1948 territories, in the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and in the diaspora because through the unity of our people, we will defeat the conspiracies, and shatter the chains of judaization, absorption, the siege, and the substitute homeland schemes.

Ahmad Jibril also called for boycotting U.S. products as the battle is a multifaceted one. He warned 'Arafat against harming the safety of the masses and the intifadah. He said: 'Arafat should know that our people's intifadah, which the enemy failed to vanquish, is stronger than to be harmed by him. Jibril said: Can his police force, irrespective of how strong it is, stand in the face of an entire people and their will?

Jibril added: The repression, storming operations, and attempts to confiscate weapons from our people will lead to a civil war. The enemy and 'Arafat have failed to vanquish the intifadah. 'Arafat now seeks to drown Gaza and the West Bank in the wars he has become accustomed to wage against the forces which oppose him from the time he was in Lebanon. [passage omitted]

DFLP Denounces Rabin Proposal for State in Gaza

JN1704193395 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1730 GMT 17 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A spokesman for the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] has denounced Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's proposal for establishing a Palestinian state in the Gaza Strip. The spokesman said that the Israeli prime minister's proposal aims at separating the West Bank and east Jerusalem from the Gaza Strip.

Gaza Source: 'Arafat Rejects 'All' Reconciliation Efforts

TA1604044895 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 16 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Sources in Gaza say PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat has rejected all reconciliation efforts with the Muslim fundamentalist opposition in the Strip. The sources said 'Arafat is calling on the Islamic Jihad to stop all attacks against Israel.

Members of the fundamentalist movements have also refused to turn over their weapons, as the Palestinian Authority demanded. Their spokesman said that they have succeeded via terror attacks to stop implementation of the Oslo accords.

[A related report on Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0405 GMT on 16 April adds that "the Palestinian Opinion Poll Center, headed by Dr. Nabil Kawkali, conducted a new survey in the Gaza Strip yesterday. The survey's findings indicate that 79 percent of the Palestinian public support the disarmament of people in possession of unlicensed weapons, while 16 percent oppose such a step. Fifty-seven percent of the public said that the terrorist attacks against Israel do not serve Palestinian interests, while 32 percent supported the continuation of such attacks."]

Abu-Middayn on Arms Collection 'Strategy'

JN1404202295 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1803 GMT 14 Apr 95

[Telephone interview with Furayh Abu-Middayn, justice minister in the Palestinian Authority, in Gaza, by Salim Badawi, in the studio, on 14 April ; from the "The Event" program—recorded; first paragraph is introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Badawi] General (Sha'ul Mofaz), military commander of southern Israel, which includes the self-rule areas in Gaza Strip, has threatened a reconsideration of the security agreement signed with the Palestinians in Cairo in case anti-Israel operations continue. According to the Israeli general, Yasir 'Arafat has not complied with the security agreement. Hence, if he fails to take measures to Israel's liking, the Israelis will have to reconsider this agreement, as General Mofaz put it. By contrast, the Palestinian Authority has decided to disarm the population of Gaza and Jericho. This decision was made three months ago. Nonetheless, it has not been implemented due to practical considerations. Now and in the wake of the recent operations and a series of explosions and crimes, the National Authority has shown a determination to begin efforts to implement the aforesaid decision, as explained to "The Event" program by Furayh Abu-Middayn, justice minister in the self-rule authority.

[Abu-Middayn] It is an old and new decision. To be honest, there is now an urgent need for collecting arms from the Palestinians. This decision might not be purely political. It is not purely targeted against armed factions. Nonetheless, an analysis of the current state of affairs in Gaza Strip shows that the economic and security challenges are inescapably interrelated. The Gaza Strip is close to economic collapse. We do not want to talk now of weapons used by highway robbers, which should have been collected a long time ago. This phenomenon has worsened. Given the unprecedented hardship and unemployment—we have not seen such an unemployment rate in 30 years—I am afraid these weapons could become uncontrollable, and thus promote the law of the jungle. Moreover, the presence of large amounts of explosives, as uncovered in the Shaykh Radwan neighborhood, is not condonable. These explosives were Israeli-manufactured. They had dates printed on them showing that they were imported to Israel via Ashdod Port. This has made it incumbent on the Palestinian National Authority, in its capacity as the party in charge, to collect these weapons, which now constitute a serious phenomenon among the Palestinians.

It is true that the Israeli closure of the Gaza Strip has created negative repercussions. Nonetheless, the presence of this large stock of weapons has begun to adversely influence the work of banks, companies, and investors. We acknowledge that we do not have an infrastructure. Nonetheless, we did have an acceptable livelihood. It is impossible for us to accept the collapse of our livelihood due to the proliferation of arms. Hence, this decision was already there. Now, it is being rehabilitated. Yesterday, the official text of this decision, which went into effect in 1956, was published. So, the decision to collect weapons will be gradually implemented. We will grant licenses to whoever needs weapons. You are well aware that we have licensed the weapons carried by some brother members of [Islamic] Jihad. Prior to his martyrdom, I offered brother Hani 'Abid to license his weapon. I told him that his life was threatened by Israel. We do not mind licensing arms whose bearers and sources are known. Well, Israel opened an arms market ahead of the arrival of the Palestinian National Authority. Twenty thousand guns were sold prior to the arrival of the Palestinian National Authority. We are not aware of who is carrying half this quantity of arms. Moreover, you can purchase weapons at any coffee shop in the West Bank at present. We do not want a repeat of the tragedy in the West Bank. Consequently, the collection of weapons is an irrevocable strategy. It must be understood by all. There cannot be a duality of authority in which everybody has his own rifle with him, as if we were living in the American West 200 years ago.

[Badawi] Minister Furayh Abu-Middayn: You have given people one month to surrender these arms. In case this deadline expires without a full response, what is the expected scenario with regard to the collection of arms, particularly since, for example, Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] officials have said that weapons are not hidden in caches, but rather in the hands of fighters? For instance, will you storm houses...

[Abu-Middayn, interrupting] We will not storm houses. A large amount of weapons will be licensed during the 30-day grace period granted. We may not scrutinize the identity of the people who demand to have their weapons licensed. The objective behind this move is to safeguard the interests of the Palestinian people. We will ban arms on the streets. Some brothers are roaming the streets in cars carrying weapons. We must eradicate this phenomenon. This is because there is no way for us to know the political identity of these people who are putting on civilian clothes. No offense intended, but there is no way for us to know whether they are highway robbers or strugglers. It is hard to ascertain this. There will be no house-stormings or direct confrontations. This is because there is no big problem with the weapons kept in houses. The trouble is with the weapons carried on the streets for the sake of boasting, particularly in the dark. Even within the ranks of the Palestinian National Police we should not allow the policemen in civilian clothes to bear arms. Soldiers who are not on active service should not bear arms. The objective is to control the arms-bearing issue, as is happening in all world states. There is no way for me to feel afraid of licensed arms used by patriots. Nonetheless, there are grounds for fear from arms used by unidentified people.

Additionally, all factions must realize that we are in the process of building a state. This state must be governed by the rule of law. It is to be recalled that the use of arms is governed by laws all over the world. We would like to tell these factions with an open mind and heart that Israel remains the principal enemy. Israel might be entertaining the notion of assassinating some of their figures. We understand this. We do not mind the possession of arms for self-defense in this case. This is the purpose behind all these decisions that created an unwarranted fuss. The Western media have exaggerated our move as if we are acting under Israeli pressure. As a matter of fact, it is the average Palestinians who are demanding this. We do not work for Israel. Our decisions reflect our own domestic needs. The brothers must also understand these needs. They should not lend credence to any Israeli decision. Nowadays, Israel is advancing various pretexts in this regard. We should not give it the chance to advance such pretexts. Israel is opposed to the peace process. The Israeli military establishment is opposed to this process. There are distinct organizations within the Israeli Army, like those that surfaced in France during the Algerian liberation war, that are opposed to this process. It is my hope that these groups will not carry out assassinations and the like. They have threatened to invade the Gaza Strip. But, we will not allow any opposition figure to be attacked. Nonetheless, we should not lend credence or give any justification to any Israeli acts. Likewise, we should not give Israel the excuse it needs to go back on the agreed redeployment of its troops in the West Bank. Additionally, we should not make it easy for it to go back on the elections, the release of prisoners, and the agreements on safe passageways.

All that we are demanding is that the brothers in other factions should not give Israel an opportunity to evade the prerequisites, knowing that July is approaching. Both of us are in the same boat, whether the peace process fails or succeeds.

What is wanted from the international community is only to give us some time. You know the media in the West, the United States, and other areas consider the results, not the causes. The cause of all the elements of failure is the settlement activity.

[Badawi] Hence, how do you define, on the political level, Israel's responsibility for the continued operations against the Israeli presence or targets in general?

[Abu-Middayn] We say Israel is responsible for these events. We warned them in the past. Israel left behind these mines in the Gaza Strip despite its prior knowledge that the 2,000 settlers who are present amid 1 million Palestinians in the Gaza Strip cannot stay there and do not have any future there. Israel left these settlers as mines designed to torpedo the peace process.

We say this to them: When you see three battalions guarding 40-50 settlers, it means this is an easy target for even an ordinary citizen who does not have any connection with any organization. This is the real provocation against the Palestinian people. The settlement activity should be terminated; otherwise the whole peace process will be undermined.

[Badawi] Yes, but Israel says this is stipulated by the Oslo agreement.

[Abu-Middayn] The problem is that the Oslo agreement did not fulfill the Palestinian dream and did not arise from a balance of power. We acknowledge this fact. However, Israel has discovered on the ground that it has thus far paid, as the price for Netzarim, the killing of nine Israelis and the wounding of tens of other Israelis at the entrance of Netzarim. The Palestinians paid a double price.

What is the meaning of keeping a settlement that houses 23 settlers? The Israelis talk about the Palestinian extremists and similar things. But do you know that Israel has 120,000 settlers in the West Bank who are 1,000 times more dangerous than what we have, and that a civil war can break out between the settlers and the Israeli Government before the final signature of any agreement with Israel? The Palestinian people will not wage a civil war but the Israelis will have a problem. Believe me, these 120,000 settlers, and not any other party, are the real threat posed to peace.

[Badawi] Your Excellency Minister Furayh Abu-Middayn: What about your accusations that foreign parties are behind the activation of operations in order to weaken the National Authority?

[Abu-Middayn] In fact, through discussions with the brothers in Hamas in the territories, all of them acknowledged that these leaflets and this escalation are coming from their leadership in Jordan, which is actually staying in palaces and pursuing politics rather than struggle. This leadership includes brothers Ibrahim Ghawshah, Muhammad Nazzal, and others. This information has been confirmed.

Jordan or Amman should not be a headquarters designed to weaken the Palestinian National Authority. There are also brothers who are influenced by the methods of the Iranian clergy. All leaders in the territories are not decisionmakers because decisions are actually made abroad. This endangers the internal situation.

I hope that Shaykh Ahmad Yasin will be released, so we can see the real face of Hamas. We hope the other brothers will make decisions from within Palestine and not from outside it. I do not want to escalate the situation. As I said earlier, we are in the same boat, and we view them as national factions. We do not cast doubt on their patriotism.

However, we tell them: Fear God and preserve your country. There has been $3 million in losses. Next month, the bills for electricity, water, and telephones will not be paid. Starvation has begun. Let them look at Afghanistan, Somalia, and other areas. We are civilized people, and we are safeguarding this people's survival on their territory. Everyone stood idly by despite the fact that 140,000 martyrs fell in Bosnia. Chechnya is being slaughtered and everyone is standing idly by. They should give an opportunity to the Palestinian people to live. The Palestine question needs years or perhaps one or two generations to find an honorable solution.

Sha'th: Hamas Must Stop for PA To Test Israel

NC1504074295 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0610 GMT 15 Apr 95

[Telephone interview with Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation in the Palestinian Authority, in Gaza, by Ramadan Husayn, in Cairo; date not given; from the "Dialogue From Afar" program—-recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Husayn] Dr. Sha'th, we welcome you on the Voice of the Arabs.

[Sha'th] Thank you.

[Husayn] Could we learn from you about the latest developments in the Gaza Strip recently, particularly after the siege the Israelis imposed at the Erez crossing?

[Sha'th] We in struggling and steadfast Gaza, the Gaza that has offered all possible sacrifices for many years to get rid of the occupation and for the sake of freedom and independence, are now, during the age of peace, facing a total Israeli siege—a siege that includes human beings, food stuffs, imports, exports, and the travel of tourists. It is a strange situation for the Israelis to be forced to celebrate their festivities by closing off the Gaza Strip and keeping it in a state of complete imprisonment which we are suffering from. This is why we are in a difficult situation regarding all the ambitions that are necessary for building the future and the independence of the Strip.

[Husayn] However, Dr. Nabil, the Israelis took these measures after the explosion. The Israelis do this after any operation takes place. We would like to know your views on the current stance now in light of what has happened, and the nature of the contacts you intend to hold regarding this issue.

[Sha'th] Of course we realize there is a problem. This problem is that the armed opposition is not committed to the peace agreement we have adhered to. This is a problem, because in fact, the operations that took place recently in the Gaza Strip with regard to those who carried them out are justified as far as those people are concerned. We are still under a siege. The Israeli settlement on Palestinian territory is totally rejected. However, an agreement is an agreement and commitment is commitment. We were committed to struggle and war throughout the time of struggle. Now we have to be committed to peace until peace is established, until such time as we all agree that this peace is no longer possible to realize our goals.

Yes, this is a problem we are trying to resolve in all possible ways without causing an internecine war. We are very careful not to cause such a war. I hope that the opposition is as careful as we are. So far, it has also been committed to this. Therefore, we need to resolve this problem and resolving it will help us a great deal. But when an operation takes place, we cannot understand how the price of this operation is for Israel to punish the whole Strip with all its residents, despite the security measures we take. Israel resorts to mass punishment, not only to punishing those who carried out the operations. This mass punishment comes in the form of the siege we are suffering from.

[Husayn] Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi said that a truce has been reached between the Palestinian Authority and the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas. What are your personal views on the dimensions of this agreement, and what sort of agreement has been reached between you and Hamas?

[Sha'th] Contacts with Hamas continue and have never stopped. There has never been a war between us for us to hold a truce. In fact, what is required is not a truce. What is required is a commitment from Hamas to stop all their acts of violence, even for just one year, for us to truly discover whether there is any hope in developing this peace into an independent Palestinian state, or whether the Israelis want nothing but stalling and procrastination. Then, we will return together to the struggle; we struggled for 47 years. However, we made the peace decision in the interest of the Palestinian people. It was a decision made by the Palestinian people. No group, whoever they may be, has the right to tamper with the security of the Palestinian homeland and make unilateral decisions without national commitment which would violate the agreement we have signed.

We want Hamas to commit to stopping military operations so that we can set up real national unity and make Hamas participate in all decision-making processes of this Palestinian homeland. [passage omitted]

Calls For Dialogue with Opposition

JN1704171595 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 14 Apr 95 p 5

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In the first meeting of its kind since the recent Gaza incidents, Palestinian Authority [PA] members held a roundtable dialogue with opposition members within the context of a seminar organized by the Information Ministry at the Rashad al-Shawwa Cultural Center on 12 April. A large crowd attended the seminar, which was held under the slogan: "The PA and the Opposition Have Common Denominators." The participants included Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi; Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation; Dr. Mahmud al-Zahhar, representing the Hamas [Islamic Resistance] Movement; 'Abdallah Hurani, PLO Executive Committee member; Yunus al-Jaru, Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine official; Hisham 'Abd-al-Razzaq from the Fatah Movement; and 'Abd-al-Rahman 'Awadallah, from the People's Party.

Sha'th said: We feel that we are still under political, military, and economic occupation, and that we are dealing with an octopus which has 500 arms. What is needed is to take apart one arm after another. We cannot conclude peace while waging war. Sha'th called on the opposition to suspend all types of military operations so that we can judge whether the agreement is a success or a failure. He added: This process should be a given a chance.

As a way out of the crisis that has surfaced between the PA and the opposition, Sha'th proposed holding a national dialogue with the opposition on the agreement on two levels. The first is to see how the opposition can participate in a comprehensive national plan, and the second how to make it participate in the decisionmaking. [passage omitted]

Dr. Mahmud al-Zahhar said: Why are honest people being tried by Palestinian courts while these trials should be trying agents? He said that Palestine, all of Palestine, is a Palestinian land and is an Islamic waqf. It is so and will remain as such. He added: Peace does not take place without strength. Israel does not want peace. He called for pursuing the negotiations and the war at the same time. He said: We support a single authority. However, there is a difference between authority and domination. What exists now is domination. He called for releasing the detainees and suspending the incitement campaigns the PA carries out. [passage omitted]

Sha'th Comments on Gaza Arms, Arab Issues

JN1304201295 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1745 GMT 13 Apr 95

[Telephone interview with Nabil Sha'th, minister of international cooperation in the Palestinian Authority, by Kamal Tarabayh in the studio on 13 April; from "The Political Week" program—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Tarabayh] Dr. Nabil Sha'th, the Palestinian National Authority [PNA] has decided to collect unlicensed weapons, by force or by persuasion. The Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Islamic Jihad Movements have refused to surrender their weapons unless certain conditions are met. My first question is: Will the PNA be able to implement its decision without falling in the trap of internal fighting?

[Sha'th] We must explain that we do not want internal fighting; it is not our aim. On the contrary, we have been tolerating intolerable things for the past ten months in order to avoid infighting. However, there is a Palestinian Authority and a supreme national interest. This interest must be served by all means to avoid a great evil that might afflict the Palestinian homeland which suffered and continues to suffer from occupation. Of course, we will not break into houses and homes. This is not in our plans. However, we will confiscate any weapon that appears on the streets or is used in a public place if its holder has no license.

[Tarabayh] The Palestinian police are storming houses in search of weapons and armed men.

[Sha'th] The storming operations are basically aimed at arresting individuals who are facing specific charges. We are trying our best to avoid any effect that these arrests will have on houses and those residing in them or on the property there.

[Tarabayh] The Palestinian people are living their complicated concerns. However, the region and the Arabs are living in very difficult conditions, especially in north Iraq in the wake of the Turkish invasion. How do you view the situation?

[Sha'th] These conditions drive one to tears because of the Arab situation; the extent of contempt that our peoples and borders are subjected to as a result of the absence of the pan-Arab security, the absence of a coordinated, not to say united, Arab strategy. There is not the minimum level of Arab understanding. In 1973, for instance, the minimum of Arab understanding enabled the Arabs to impose conditions—perhaps not complete—which led to the Israeli withdrawal from Sinai and then to the peace process.

We are living a situation where each Arab state is besieged and each Arab capability is restrained within the narrowest and weakest link. Without a logical, reasonable awakening in this new world—I am not saying that this should be effected within the new world or the new basis of peace but through a strategic pan-Arab alertness—we will continue to suffer.

[Tarabayh] U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher visited the autonomous area in Gaza. Dennis Ross also visited Gaza and held talks with Yasir 'Arafat. Are you relying on U.S. pressure on Israel to force the Hebrew state to implement agreements and treaties?

[Sha'th] Not much. Frankly speaking, since we signed this agreement we have not seen real U.S. pressure on Israel to force it to implement what it committed itself to implement. The question has been further compounded by the fact that the Israeli stalling has been drowned by the operations carried out by the Palestinian opposition, especially the Bet Lid and Dezingov operations. However, I say that the Israeli stalling is not caused by Israel's security fears. In the first three and one-half months after the implementation of the agreement, there were no operations, but Rabin made the remark that there are no sacred dates. The implementation was delayed in most cases and only one-half of those detainees who we agreed would be released were really released.

The United States has not done what it had to do: Pressure Israel to implement its own pledges and not justify its stalling by shortcomings on our side. Until this moment, in light of the U.S., international, and Israeli situations, we do not see intense U.S. pressure in this regard.

[Tarabayh] The United States has promised extensive aid to the PNA. Christopher and others promised to provide vehicles and arms. Is this the required U.S. material support?

To be exact, the sum which was promised in 1994 was $720 million of which $238 million were paid. From its share, the United States paid $38 million in addition to vehicles for the Palestinian police. Therefore, the United States this year rearranged priorities of aid and transformed most of it into aid for infrastructure projects leading to job opportunities. It also provided loans for establishing an oil refinery and a large hotel at the cost of $90 million. We hope that all of them will be implemented this year. I believe that the question of delaying the payments will be largely dealt with this year.

[Tarabayh] Dr. Sha'th: Israel holds negotiations with the Palestinians and others. It holds meetings and continued discussions. But when it comes to Lebanon in particular, Israel negotiates with guns and fire. There are daily Israeli attacks on southern Lebanon. Is it possible to arrive at a comprehensive peaceful Arab coexistence with Israel under the continued Israeli military operations in southern Lebanon?

[Sha'th] Of course not. No peace can be established with Israel unless this peace is comprehensive and unless the occupied Arab territory is restored. Nor can there be peace unless the Palestinian people restore their territorial and repatriation rights. This is one of the axioms of the peace process. We have accepted a peace based on relative justice, not absolute justice, and so did all the Arabs. However, this should lead to complete and comprehensive Israeli withdrawal, Palestinian repatriation, and the exercise of the right to self-determination to arrive at an independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital. This should also lead to Lebanon's real independence and the restoration of all its occupied territory. The same applies to Syria. The peace process has prerequisites without which no comprehensive peace can be achieved.

[Tarabayh] Nabil Sha'th: The decision to collect arms, accompanied by a large-scale detention campaign among Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Islamic Jihad members, is the direct and preliminary outcome of the two suicide operations. Hamas and the Islamic Jihad stress their right to carry weapons and to carry out military operations as long as the occupation exists. What is your response?

[Sha'th] We absolutely refuse to have two authorities on the Palestinian soil. We do not agree that some of us will play the game of war in peacetime. We have struggled for 47 years through armed struggle and the intifadah until we arrived at this peace. Most importantly, carrying out military operations against this agreement will lead to the cessation of the peace process and not taking the West Bank back. Such operations will lead to denying the Palestinian people their daily livelihoods, keeping the prisoners in prison, and to supporting those Israelis who reject the peace process and attempt to circumvent it. However, we cannot expose them unless we all are committed to the peace process. Therefore, we should not be depicted as if we are the aggressors. The aggressors are those who are not committed to the national consensus and national legitimacy.

I want to ask: Does any Arab country—Syria, Egypt, Jordan, or any country bound with an agreement—allow anybody in the opposition to violate agreements and to cross the border to carry out war? This is the basic point. If we proceed from it, then one can look for every means to achieve security and the national interest with the least amount of national losses. If our opposition is committed not to resort to fighting, then we will do what we want without resorting to fighting.

[Tarabayh] Evidently, the existing relations between the PLO and some Arab Gulf states have not been restored to their warmth despite the lapse of over three years after the end of the Gulf war. But what about Palestinian-French relations and Palestinian-European relations? Are you satisfied with the political and material support provided by France to the Palestinian National Authority?

[Sha'th] Undoubtedly, the French and European stand has always been distinguished, both politically and practically. France adopts an advanced position in this regard even inside the European arena. Materially, France has a share, albeit small, of the material support received by the Palestinian Authority. It has a larger share through its contribution to the EU's aid to the Palestinian Authority. The EU is actually one of the most advanced groups in honoring its obligations. Generally speaking, I say that Europe and France remain the closest to us and the party most committed to its obligations toward us.

[Tarabayh] The Syrian-Israeli negotiations are making no progress despite the U.S. efforts in this regard. What about the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations on expanding the autonomy?

[Sha'th] There have been no real negotiations on the continuation of the peace process. To be truthful and accurate, since we signed the Gaza-Jericho agreement and since the Palestinian forces and authority entered Gaza and the Israeli forces withdrew from 300 out of 360 square kilometers in Gaza and 60 square kilometers in Jericho, nothing has been realized except the so- called early transfer of powers in the West Bank; namely, placing schools, hospitals, clinics, tourist offices, tax collection, social affairs, youth affairs, and sports under the PNA in the West Bank. No progress has been made. Truly, we have not moved from our position for the past six months.

[Tarabayh] What is the solution? What means does the Palestinian side have to push Israel toward expediting the negotiations and hence, implement the second phase of the agreement?

[Sha'th] This is where the problem lies. The problem is that we are caught between the hammer and the anvil. On one side, according to the Israelis, our part of this peace process should be to provide security for Israeli individuals in Israel. They say that the number of Israelis killed in the past six months as a result of operations carried out by the Palestinian opposition is more than the number of those killed before the peace process. Hence, we link our progress in negotiations over the West Bank to the end of these operations against us. On the other side, the Israelis, as usual, are totally paralyzing the political process by imposing a closure, starving our people, particularly in Gaza, and in the West Bank, to a lesser extent, and by actions that can only create an atmosphere which leads to the escalation of violent operations against them. This has reached an extent in which a number of young men are willing to commit voluntary suicide instead of living this life imposed on us by the occupation.

This is the problem. We want to see progress in the peace process and they say: First of all, stop these suicidal operations against us. We say: Let each of us shoulder their responsibilities. Shoulder your responsibilities and implement this agreement and we will shoulder our own responsibilities and try our best—the most that could be asked of anyone—to stop these violent operations against them. We have not made any progress in this regard.

[Tarabayh] Dr. Sha'th. In terms of the nuclear issue, as you know, Egypt refused to agree on an extension of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty unless Israel joins this treaty. Arab countries supported Egypt's stand. Do you think that this unified Arab stand on this particular issue could develop in favor of achieving Arab reconciliation and launching joint Arab action, even at minimum levels?

[Sha'th] There is no doubt that this is a good, logical, and enlightened step that can be defended at every international forum. Therefore, this step has strengthened the Arab stand and ended the rush by some of our Arab brothers to achieve a very early reconciliation with Israel before it fulfills its commitments in the peace process. With full support from my leadership, I wholeheartedly stood by brother 'Amr Musa and supported all Egyptian negotiators in this regard, despite all the difficulties we are facing. A solid Arab stand in this direction must reflect itself on the other stands.

[Tarabayh] A final question, Dr. Nabil Sha'th. Some reports say that Mahmud 'Abbas, also known as Abu-Mazin, will be heading the Palestinian negotiating team. What is the latest on this issue?

[Sha'th] Perhaps there was some fogginess concerning what this decision means. Brother Abu-Mazin has always been head of the committee in charge of following up the negotiations which emanates from the PLO Executive Committee. This committee followed up the negotiations from the Madrid conference through Washington, Oslo, and Taba. I have always been pleased with the committed, balanced, and wise role played by brother Abu-Mazin each time I headed the negotiating delegation. I have felt his support and wisdom from Tunis through his advice to us and his support in every negotiating process. Brother Abu-Mazin was supposed to resume this role—which was temporarily assumed by brother Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh in his absence. So far, there is no indication that brother Abu-Mazin will resume this role again. However, we always hope that he and other leaders of ours will return to the homeland and stand by us here while we regain this homeland, step by step and inch by inch—a course which Abu-Mazin himself has chosen—and we hope he will be with us to carry this out.

Blames Israel for Violence

NC1504062095 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 11 Apr 95 p 6

[Report by 'Abd-al-Nasir Salamah]

[FBIS Translated Text] Dr. Nabil Sha'th, the Palestinian National Authority's [PNA] minister of planning and international cooperation, has asserted that Israel's policy has not made any progress in the security field, thus leading to the death of more Israelis after the start of the peace process than during the year that preceded this process. He added that 20 Israelis were killed in a single operation in Tel Aviv, 21 in the Bet Lid explosion, and the two operations the day before yesterday which killed or injured around 58 persons.

In exclusive statements to AL-AHRAM, Dr. Sha'th said that the peace process is going through a major crisis because Israel has wasted a lot of time in implementing the "Gaza-Jericho" agreement. He added: Around 5,000 Palestinian prisoners are still in Israel's detention camps, contacts with the outside world remain under the Israelis' controls, the agreement on the transit of goods between Gaza and Egypt and Jericho and Jordan and in the international airport has not been implemented, and the safe corridor between Gaza and Jericho remains closed. Additionally, the occupation forces continue to impose a tight siege after each act of violence.

Regarding the transitional stage in the West Bank, Sha'th said that the Israeli Government is still prevaricating on the issue of deployment and hence delaying the elections and the return of those displaced in 1967. It has not allowed the UN forces to enter Gaza and Jericho. On the other hand, the Israelis are continuing to build settlements and Judaize Jerusalem. On its part, the PNA has been unable to stop all armed operations against the Israelis in Gaza and outside it. Israel believes that achieving security is the most important part of this agreement and the remaining part concerns normalizing relations with the Arab countries rushing toward it. It concluded peace with Jordan but no security for the Israelis has followed all this.

The Palestinian minister said: The escalating incidents are not the reason for Israel's procrastination in fulfilling its responsibilities, as it claims. There were absolutely no violent incidents in the first three months that followed the agreement but we heard statements from Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin that he had no intention of withdrawing the occupation forces on 13 July 1994 as stipulated in the agreement. He also said that dates were not sacrosanct. The Israeli actions also became more violent and took the form of collective punishment which increased the Palestinians' anger and prompted them to join the opposition organizations that carry out the violent operations. These operations increased as a result of the political disappointment that followed the failure to hold the elections which could have provided an opportunity to choose the democratic way of dialogue instead of violence. This is why we are in a vicious circle that has paralyzed the negotiations.

On how serious Israel is in the current negotiations on the elections issue, Dr. Sha'th said: Israel is continuing with these negotiations because it knows that the elections will not be held unless there is agreement on the occupation forces' withdrawal from the West Bank. It is continuing the futile negotiations over the elections issue in order to shield itself from criticism that it is against democracy. This is evidenced by the fact that all the other meetings between the two sides have not achieved any real progress because the Israeli objective from these meetings is not to reach a complete dead end and not to achieve real progress and therefore exert pressure on the Palestinian Authority and the Palestinians.

The Palestinian minister stressed that several attempts have been made to break this paralysis and make some progress. One such attempt was to hold a dialogue with the Palestinian opposition to freeze the military operations so as to give the peace process an opportunity to make progress while giving the Palestinian police more leeway to contain and try to stop these operations. But the recent Gaza events renewed the Israeli fears and highlighted the dangers of the vicious circle, the political paralysis, and the economic siege. It should be stressed here that the major part of the Israeli political paralysis and economic siege is not aimed only at foiling the military operations, but at keeping the Palestinian economy the prisoner of the Israeli one. Otherwise, what has the transit of goods between Egypt and Gaza and Jordan and Jericho to do with the security dangers to Israel?

Abu-Zayidah: PA To Resort to Force If Attacks Continue

TA1604061395 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 16 Apr 95

[Telephone interview with Sufyan Abu-Zayidah, head of the Israeli desk in the Palestinian Authority, by Karmit Gay; place not given—live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Gay] Good morning to Sufyan Abu-Zayidah, one of the leading PLO officials in the Gaza Strip.

[Abu-Zayidah] Good morning.

[Gay] What are the chances of achieving a reconciliation between Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], the Islamic Jihad, and the Palestinian Authority [PA] in the next few days?

[Abu-Zayidah] I think this clearly rests ultimately on one thing. I also think that all attempts at mediation have been carried out in the wrong way, because all the parties and leading activists in the Gaza Strip—including the Palestinian opposition factions that are part of the PLO, as well as independent figures—know full well that reconciliation begins and ends with one major step: The autonomous areas must cease to be used as a launching pad for terrorist attacks, and such attacks must be halted inside the autonomous areas themselves. Furthermore, all incitement or announcements of terrorist attacks must stop inside the autonomy. This is the be all and end all.

[Gay] This is what Yasir 'Arafat said yesterday.

[Abu-Zayidah] Correct. That is what he said and what we, the Fatah representatives at the meeting, said. This is also the prevailing opinion and the natural outcome of things. Regardless of all attempts to deny it, this is the truth. This is what will happen. In other words, if we want the process to continue and succeed, this is where we must start. I also believe that this is what concerns the public.

[Gay] What was the reaction of the Hamas and Islamic Jihad representatives to the conditions you presented?

[Abu-Zayidah] I would rather not discuss their reply; however, one thing is clear: The public in the Gaza Strip also feels this way. I believe the results of the survey that showed that 79 percent want to see people disarmed and over 70 percent support stopping the terrorist attacks from the Gaza Strip.

[Gay] Why is it so difficult to disarm those individuals who do not have a license to possess weapons? Throughout the history of the State of Israel and even during its prestate existence, various political figures decided that certain organizations should no longer possess weapons. Once decided, the authorities simply went ahead and implemented their decision, even when it exacted a very painful price.

[Abu-Zayidah] We also think that these weapons should be requisitioned. We are not refusing or hesitating to do this. We simply prefer that this be done through mutual agreement. We do not want to use force. If we ultimately fail to reach agreement, however, we will clearly employ force. There is no choice. This is very clear. The Palestinian public, Hamas, and the Islamic Jihad are all aware of this. The PA has run out of patience. Either we agree together, or there will be no other recourse.

[Gay] When is this supposed to happen? How much longer will you try to accomplish this through goodwill before moving on to force?

[Abu-Zayidah] I think one thing will decide this timetable. It could take a month, a year, or perhaps even one day. One thing will clearly decide this, and that is whether the terrorist attacks continue. As far as I am concerned, I do not want to confiscate weapons. I do not want them to declare that they have stopped the terrorist attacks. I do not seek joint agreement. I want one thing: an end to terrorist attacks. The PA must be given an opportunity to prove itself, and Israel must be given a chance to prove that it is serious about the peace process.

[Gay] Thank you, Sufyan Abu-Zayidah.

'Arafat Addresses Gaza Rally

JN1704133495 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1745 GMT 16 Apr 95

[Speech by Palestinian Authority President Yasir 'Arafat at a speech rally held in Gaza on 16 April in commemoration of the late Fatah leader Khalil al-Wazir, who was assassinated in Tunis in 1988—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. God hath purchased of the believers their person and their goods; for theirs in return is the garden of paradise; they fight in his cause, and slay and are slain; a promise binding on him in truth, through the law, the gospel, and the Koran: And who is more faithful to his covenant than God? Then rejoice in the bargain which ye have concluded: That is the achievement supreme. [Koranic verse]

O Abu-Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], the prince of martyrs; Abu-Yusuf [Muhammad Yusuf al-Najjar], the conscience of the revolution; Kamal Nasir and Kamal al-'Adwan; the swords of the revolution; companions of the march; brother members of the PLO Executive Committee; ministers of the National Authority; brother leaders of the Palestinian national movement; my people and kinsfolk, all of my people and kinsfolk [applause and chants of "With our souls and blood we redeem you, Abu-'Ammar"—Yasir 'Arafat]; yes, my people and kinsfolk, all of my kinsfolk; O my sister Umm-Jihad [Intisar al-Wazir], sister of strugglers [applause]; brothers: When we in the Fatah Movement were all jailed, Umm-Jihad, the sister of martyrs and strugglers led the Palestinian revolution. [applause and chants of "With our souls and blood we redeem you, Abu-'Ammar; 'Arafat joins them, but chants "we redeem you, Palestine" instead] Yes, brothers and beloved ones; yes, Abu-Jihad, the companion of the road and march: We direct our eyes to you up in heaven in the company of God, from Gaza, the first liberated Palestinian territory. As dictated by the oath and pledge—and an oath is an oath and a pledge is a pledge—we will remember you when we sit tomorrow in holy Jerusalem, the capital of the state of Palestine.

[applause] Yes, the mountain will not be shaken by the wind. [applause] I tell the youths: Yes, no wind will shake you. [applause]

I say, brothers, God willing we will have a gathering such as this one in Jerusalem, the capital of the state of Palestine, whether they like it or not. [last six words repeated three times] Yes, Jerusalem is the capital of the state of Palestine. [chants]

Brothers, beloved ones [chants], I say brothers, my beloved ones, we are now passing through the most dangerous stage. I want to talk to you frankly. The Israeli withdrawal from the remaining Palestinian territory, or their redeployment in the West Bank, was supposed to take place in July of last year so that we can start elections. We are now in April. This means that Israel is procrastinating and delaying the implementation of the agreement. They use several pretexts [repeated three times], the most serious of which is their security. Every now and then, they tell me: Security, security, security, security, security.

From my political position, and from my position as PLO chairman, I understand that when we signed the agreement with them, we signed that agreement in the name of the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people everywhere, here inside the homeland and outside the homeland. We must respect that agreement.

I remind you and remind all of our people and Arab and Islamic nations that when the Prophet Muhammad, God's blessings and peace be upon him, signed the al-Hudaybiyah truce agreement [with Meccan infidels], Quraysh [the leading Meccan tribe] refused to have the Prophet sign his name as "Muhammad the Prophet of God." Muhammad, the Prophet of God, told his companions to erase the phrase "Prophet of God" and write "Muhammad Bin-'Abdallah." 'Umar Bin-al-Khattab and 'Ali Bin-Abi-Talib [leading followers of the prophet and, respectively, the second and fourth orthodox caliphs] told the Prophet: How can we accept that? What more do you want? 'Umar Bin-al-Khattab called that agreement the humiliating agreement, and said: Prophet of God, how can we agree to have our religion humiliated?

We signed that agreement in Oslo, and if any of you has one objection to it, I have one hundred objections.

However, we not only signed an agreement between us, as the PLO, and the government of Israel; the two cosponsors signed this agreement twice: The first time under the supervision of Clinton in Washington, and in the second time Christopher and Kozyrev signed it, along with us, under the supervision of President Mubarak in Cairo.

Hence, this agreement is not a bilateral agreement; it is an international agreement that should be honored by the two sides. Exactly as we are honoring this agreement, Israel should also honor and implement it. [chants]

Here, I would like to say a frank word to my brothers who are practicing one-upmanship, and there are a lot of them: I would like to remind you that when al-'Asifah [Fatah's military wing] was unleashed, some newspapers said we were the allies of the [Central Treaty Organization] CENTO [preceding word in English]. Did you forget this? They did say this about us, and no one forgets this. They also said we were CIA [preceding word in English] and other things. However, martyr hero Ahmad Musa, the first martyr of the al-'Asifah, gave the answer that this revolution came into being to survive and triumph. [applause]

I am saying this so no one will practice one-upmanship. When we signed an agreement following the artillery battle in Lebanon in 1981, we honored this agreement and prevented everyone from firing any bullets from southern Lebanon. Do you remember this? Yes. When some Lebanese or Palestinian factions tried to tamper with this agreement, we took measures against them in the name of the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples. [applause]

When they were uttering words... [pauses] Yes, we are democratic ones and we accept every word of criticism against us, and, as 'Umar Bin-al-Khattab said: May God have mercy on anyone who corrects 'Umar, any child from this Palestinian people has the right to criticize both me and the Palestinian leadership which is sitting with me here. [applause]

However, our brothers, democracy is one thing and anarchy is something else. We accept democracy, criticism, self-criticism, and pluralism because I agreed on this with your brother martyrs whose amir was Abu-Jihad. Yes, my brothers, the martyrs mentioned by Umm-Jihad, who were my brother members of the [Fatah] Central Committee, can form a Central Committee quorum in paradise. Thus, no one can practice one-upmanship. If we count the number of our martyrs, wounded, prisoners, and detainees in proportion to the number of our people, we will find that we are the richest revolution in the 20th century and the one that has given the largest number of martyrs, prisoners, wounded, and detainees.

My brothers, I am not saying this in vain. I am referring to Dalal al-Mughrabi and 'Abir al-Wuhaydi [Fatah members who carried out anti-Israeli operations] [applause]. No one can practice one-upmanship [phrase repeated three times] regarding 'Abir al-Wuhaydi or Dalal al-Mughrabi. However, we make peace with courage just as we fought, and we are fighting, with courage.

My brothers, you should now know that there are forces inside Israel that are interested in obstructing this agreement because the latter is the Palestinian dream and newborn on the liberated Palestinian land in Gaza and the West Bank with holy Jerusalem as its capital. [applause]

Therefore, I have the right to tell all my brothers: Yes to national dialogue [phrase repeated twice] but on the basis of commitment to what was decided by the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. [applause] In other words, if some people do not yet think that the PLO is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, our Palestinian people know how to teach them manners and subject them to accountability. [applause]

From this premise, our brothers, we are talking frankly and clearly. As I said at the beginning of my talk, there is in Israel an attempt to obstruct the agreement and evade the implementation of what they signed. Regrettably, there are some people who are giving the Israelis the pretext of so-called security [last word repeated five times]. We are fed up with the word security. Regrettably, some of us are giving them this pretext.

Brothers, I want to remind you of something and I want to speak frankly. Following the Gulf war, the Palestinian National Council—no one can say that he was absent because everybody was present—decided to take part in the Madrid conference with an overwhelming majority and not by consensus. This is democracy. I continued to hold respect for some of my brothers in the Central Committee who did not vote for the resolution. However, the majority, voted for it. Thus, we went to Madrid. I want to remind you that we went to Madrid as part of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. Or have you forgotten? Did we approve of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation and not approve a national authority on a liberated Palestinian land, praise be to God? [applause]

My brethren, following this we managed, along with our brethren in the Palestinian delegation—the heroes who represented Palestine—to make the delegation a Palestinian and not a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, noting our respect and esteem for our brothers in Jordan. However, it is the right of this people, who have been steadfast for 100 years since the first Zionist conference in Basel in 1897, and as the Prophet Muhammad, peace be upon him, said this people will remain steadfast until the doomsday. Yes, we have been steadfast for 100 years. Then came the Balfour Declaration which called you minorities. Then, the Second World War took place. I am only reminding you and refreshing your memory. Then the Yalta, not Malta which I will talk about later on, Conference was held—a conference that endorsed the creation of the State of Israel and then this was pedaled in the United Nations. I want to remind you that voting in [the United Nations] was delayed for two days in order to secure an extra vote. Is this right? This is international legitimacy. In 1947, the Partition Plan was adopted.

In 1967 [the Israelis] occupied all Palestine. Golda Meir was asking: Where is the Palestinian people? I am the only Palestinian. She was saddened by the increasing number of the Palestinian people; this is our demographic bomb with which we are facing this enemy. [applause] I say this because their decision was to eliminate the Palestinian people from the political and geographical map, thus turning us into mere figures in the United Nations Relief and Works Agency. My brethren, the Palestinian people's martyrs, spearheaded by the prince of martyrs Abu-Jihad; the wounded; and the prisoners, led by my brother Shaykh Ahmad Yasin [founder of Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas,] [applause]; yes my brethren the new generals, the stone-throwing children, who I called the new generals; and the youths of the Palestine Liberation Army [PLA] [chants]; yes the intifadah generals and the PLA—I do not want to mention what some publish in their papers about the heroes—fought for 30 years on all Arab fronts—I defy any army that fought on all Arab fronts as the Palestinian army did. [applause]

Hence, brothers, I am saying, on behalf of the Palestinian people, on behalf of the PLO, on behalf of the Palestinian National Authority established on the first portion of liberated Palestinian soil, on behalf of our martyrs and wounded, on behalf of our prisoners, and on behalf of stone-throwing generals, that we will protect this Palestinian dream, this nascent Palestinian entity, which is the prelude to an independent Palestinian state, with holy Jerusalem as its capital. [applause]

When I say that holy Jerusalem will be our state's capital, I mean what I say, whether they like it or not. As for those who do not like this, they are offered to drink from the sea of Gaza. If they do not like to drink from the sea of Gaza, they may drink from the Dead Sea. [chants and applause]

Yes, brothers, we have to protect this Palestinian dream so we may be loyal to the cause for which hundreds of thousands of martyrs fell, for which hundreds of thousands of people were wounded, and for which hundreds of thousands of people suffered detention and imprisonment. Over 2,000 people were martyred in our intifadah, not to mention the fact that 117,000 people were wounded in it, as well as 138,000 persons who were imprisoned in it. Our figures are accurate. It is public knowledge that 72,000 persons were martyred or wounded in the Beirut battle, two thirds of whom were Palestinians, while the others were Lebanese.

Brothers, we never forget. Hence, I would like to tell my brothers, all my brothers in this Palestinian trench that our path is clear. We will continue to proceed toward Jerusalem, toward Jerusalem, toward Jerusalem, toward Jerusalem, toward Jerusalem. [applause] This will materialize, brothers. Moreover, I would like to address the righteous martyrs whose abode is in the highest of heavens, saying: We will keep the pledge and the oath. We will keep the pledge and the oath. We will keep the pledge and the oath. A stone-throwing cub or a stone-throwing lass will raise the Palestinian flag over the walls, minarets, and churches of Jerusalem. They see this as a remote possibility, and we do not see it that way; and it is we who are telling the truth. And to enter your temple as they had entered it before, and to visit with destruction all that fell into their power. [partial Koranic verse] But God will not fail in his promise. [partial Koranic verse] God will certainly aid those who aid his cause. [partial Koranic verse] God hath purchased of the believers their persons and goods; for theirs in return is the garden of paradise: They fight in his cause and slay and are slain: A promise binding on him in truth, through the law, the gospel, and the Koran. And who is more faithful to his covenant than God? [partial Koranic verse]

Brothers, the path is tortuous and long. I swear to you, I swear to our righteous martyrs, I swear to our wounded and prisoners, I swear to youths and to security troops and policemen, I swear to these new stone-throwing generals, I swear to all prisoners, I swear to Abu-Jihad, prince of martyrs, I swear to them all, saying that we will proceed toward Jerusalem, toward Jerusalem, toward Jerusalem, toward Jerusalem, toward Jerusalem.

Algeria

Presidency Issues Communique on Dialogue, Elections

LD1704215295 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1800 GMT 17 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] [Announcer] The state presidency has just drawn up a preliminary balance sheet of the bilateral talks with the nine parties and national organizations in favor of presidential elections. Mohamed Khadim:

[Khadim] Yes, according to a presidency communique issued this evening, some of these parties recalled that they themselves had called for the holding of presidential elections. On the subject of the amendments to the electoral law which are being proposed, the state president gave details regarding a certain number of concerns, such as the spreading of elections over 72 hours, the security forces being able to vote at their place of work, voting by the Algerian community living abroad, and other aspects from, in particular, the election program of each candidate to the duration of the campaign and access to the media. The state president also showed his willingness to examine other proposals put forward, such as concerning the law banning the use of religion for political ends.

With regard to the problem of violence as a hindrance to elections, the presidency communique said that the state president reiterated the authorities' commitment to establishing the conditions of security necessary for this operation. The need to continue with the dialogue in order to facilitate the success of these elections was also referred to by the state president: these elections will be genuinely free, fair, and above-board, he said, and all those concerned will be involved in defining and applying the guarantees necessary to achieve this end.

Finally, some interlocutors raised the subjects of the socio- economic situation and the Amazigh [Berber] question and the school boycott. On the subject of this last point, the head of state recalled the responsibility of all people of good will to work to achieve an outcome to this crisis.

[Announcer] Can one now talk about things settling down in the political sphere? Hassan Dafer:

[Dafer] If one leaves aside the nine parties and organizations which have agreed to become fully involved in the election process, and if one believes that the scepticism expressed by two parties over the prospect of holding these elections can be overcome thanks to the state president's personal commitment to ensure that these elections take place amid conditions of security, then the rest of the results of these last two bilateral meetings in a way show the true colors of a certain section of the opposition which persists in attempting to impose the contract agreed at Sant' Egidio. These parties, of which there are four, were once again given explanations, backed up by sound arguments, as to the pointlessness of such an action, which responds neither to the needs of the national situation nor to the sincere wish to promote national consensus by working first of all for a return to legitimacy.

However, the rejection of their stand does not mean that the dialogue is being broken off. President Zeroual, who once again confirmed the holding of the election by the end of the current year, reiterated his willingness to discuss any proposal for a solution to the crisis, as long as it is a proposal which has been drawn up in Algeria, among Algerians, incorporating confidence in the move [as heard], and refraining from making prejudgments. This willingness on the part of the presidency should be understood to mean that the parties in question are quite at liberty to meet here, adopt a joint strategy, should there be such a need, and to present the outlines of it within a fairly brief period of time because the next stages of the talks have already been defined: Within a brief period of time the electoral law is going to be submitted to the Transitional National Council for revision, and following this revision, only the parties which intend to participate in the elections will be invited for further talks.

AIS Deputy Leader Reportedly Escapes GIA Ambush

LD1704152095 Paris Radio France International in French 1230 GMT 17 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] According to this morning's issue of the daily LA TRIBUNE, the second in command of the Islamic Salvation Army, the AIS, has reportedly escaped an ambush set by members of another Islamist movement, the GIA, the infamous Armed Islamic Group.

Army Criticizes Politicians Who Doubt Its Role

LD1704163895 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 17 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Before moving to other national issues, there is a press article which attracts our attention and urges us to stop at it. The Month's Report [regular feature] which appeared in AL-JAYSH [THE ARMY; French transliteration EL DJEICH] magazine [appears in Arabic and French] under the title Demise and Lamentation said the following:

The state of the criminal and subversive gangs is that they have—due to the tightening of the security forces' fist on them—entered a situation which resembles that of someone who is dying and who is frightened of the unknown fate that awaits him. In itself, this situation explains why the armed criminal gangs resort to adopting the method of the booby-trapped car to hit secure targets with the aim of terrorizing the citizens, and appear in the guise of someone who possesses other alternatives in winning the rounds of the raging conflict, despite their realization that they are emitting their last breaths.

What is strange, according to the article of AL-JAYSH magazine, is that these cowardly acts found someone ready to publicize them in some partisan newspapers on which the trick worked, because the reactions, and not the acts, which these gangs were carrying out only express a desperate state, disappointment, and the passing of time. These crimes have, instead of provoking the feelings of condemnation among our politicians, whetted the appetite of some of them to talk about the National People's Army in an attempt to cast doubt on the authenticity of the role assumed by the latter as the defender of the nation against the danger of terrorism surrounding it.

AL-JAYSH concluded the editorial by stressing that the National People's Army will remain an invincible barrier to anyone who might be thinking of tampering with the trust in its charge. Let whoever is thinking about that review recent events. He will undoubtedly encounter the image of the Algerian soldier on the day of 'Id al-Fitr, busy carrying out his duties and being greeted and wished success by passers by. Anyone who has not been affected by that image does not know the Algerian people and the Algerian army, or the nature of the warm relations between them, and anything he might say can be nothing more than useless buffoonery.

Prime Minister Reflects on First Year in Office

LD1604093195 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 15 Apr 95

["Exclusive" interview with Prime Minister Mokdad Sifi, by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Correspondent] The first channel hosts Prime Minister Mokdad Sifi on the occasion of him being the head of government for one year. On this occasion, we wanted to attempt an assessment of the government's progress during this year, and its achievements. It should also be possible, God willing, to cast a glance at the characteristics of the near future in this meeting. Thus, we welcome Mr. Mokdad Sifi to this special program, and start immediately by asking a first introductory question: Mr. Prime Minister, when you became prime minister, you found the standby agreement and a critical security situation; thus, you encountered the economic and security situations. How would you now assess the situation from these two aspects after a year, and how do you see it developing in the near future?

[Sifi] Thank you. First I would like to thank the first channel for this initiative. Concerning the assessment of government activity this year, we could perhaps point out that this program may not enable us to give an accurate, comprehensive assessment, but we will try to give some glimpses on numerous aspects, an idea about this assessment.

Initially, when this government came to power in April 1994 an agreement with the IMF had been signed, or concluded, between the two sides. [passage omitted]

Initially, we tried to move with this agreement, and implemented it according to our knowledge and capabilities. In fact, this agreement was necessary.

Maybe at the beginning we can give some idea or one example which will make the listeners understand what this agreement means. In 1994, the expectations were that indebtedness would be $9.5 billion, and that income and revenues would be $8 billion. So income and revenues would not cover even the debts in this year. In other words, the $8 billion would be used for the debts and there would still be $1.5 billion which we would have to find in loans from abroad to cover the rest. [passage omitted]

This throws some light on the importance of this agreement. Actually the most important aim of this agreement is the scheduling of debts. But this scheduling related to the period between May 1994 and May-June 1995. This led us to carry out a rescheduling of debts totaling about $5.3 billion. This gave the government financial resources which enabled it to face the problems the country is experiencing.

These problems are, first, problems of supplying the country with a number of items—foodstuffs, consumer goods, medicines—as well as the raw and semiprocessed materials for industrial and economic units. We have made a start in this area, but the beginning was difficult because although the agreement with the IMF was announced in April 1994, its implementation required an agreement with the Paris Club, which was reached in June 1994, as well as other procedures affecting our bilateral relations with a number of states. [passage omitted]

But we have made efforts and arrived at results which have given the country from the end of 1994 and up to now reasonable supplies of all materials, the start-up of workshops, and support for development in general.

[Correspondent] It is true, Mr. Prime Minister, that there is an improvement in financing for the market and for Algerian industry—in other words the economic apparatus—thanks to the standby agreement and the rescheduling. But the question arises: Is the rescheduling not merely a postponement of the repayment of debts, and how is Algeria preparing to meet these commitments which have only been put off? We must be aware of this.

[Sifi] Actually, this is important. We must indicate that rescheduling and repayment of debts does not mean increasing debts. These debts were to be repaid in that period I spoke about. [passage omitted]

On the other hand, we must stress that this is not easy. Nobody gives you anything without something in return. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Regarding rescheduling, talks are being held with the London Club and with the IMF. What are the future steps and what are the expected results?

[Sifi] Perhaps before dealing with this question, we could complete or add something which goes with the first reply. This Algerian plan is a difficult one; it aims at an all-embracing economic and financial balance that obliges the state to reduce its expenditures and pay attention to savings. This is difficult and has repercussions on the standard of living. According to the testimony of all the partners, the plan was a success; it was a success regarding the measures taken while the rescheduling was in progress, and regarding the plan we had agreed on. [passage omitted]

We are waiting for the rescheduling of debts for the next three years to provide an opportunity for the government and Algeria to have flexibility in revitalizing the economy. [passage omitted]

The Algerian program will stop directly subsidizing the prices of goods and direct subsidies to the poor. Thus we have begun to gradually reduce this subsidy in order that market prices should prevail and there will be no subsidy. This 20 billion dinars in 1995 is the approximate equivalent of more than 60 million Algerian dinars daily. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] You have talked about cooperation and consultation with social partners. The idea being talked about recently is the social contract. How do you perceive this social contract in the light of the recent meetings you have had with representatives of employers and workers, particularly in these difficult conditions experienced in Algeria?

[Sifi] First, I would like to point out that the most important aspect of the government's endeavor is consultation. I would also like to point out that this government was formed on the basis of the national consensus platform and on the basis of this platform's instructions which places great importance on consultation. In my opinion, this is important. The government cannot work on its own. [passage omitted]

The social contract is a preliminary proposal. We will talk about its main pivots in general terms and leave enough time for our partners to think about and add whatever they favor to it.

The main pivots of this proposal take into consideration economic forecasts and their effects in the social sphere, and seek to cover these by prior, joint formulation of solutions. [passage omitted]

Ever since Algeria became independent we have been thinking about developing the south, and now we have an instrument. The investment law enabled us to persuade investors to go to the south, be based there, and invest there. This is why we used this instrument and we gave large aid to the four provinces. The measures concern the structure of the project. The structure of the project in the four provinces carries no charge, and the costs of the basic preparations for the project—including roads, electricity, and gas supply when gas becomes available—will all be met by the state.

In addition, we have halved the interest rate. There is a 10- year duty exemption. This makes people go there. The fact that investors see the prospect of an investment return in the south will entice them to go to the south. We have noticed that since the council of government was held in January there have been 230 projects in Adrar, and in all we have thus far recorded 360 projects. We must realize that this is only registration stage. We are awaiting the starting signal.

[Correspondent] I would like you to talk about the question of movement restrictions in these areas with regard to the recent decision.

[Sifi] Everyone knows that in the south—not the far south you were talking about, but other areas in the south having a base for fuel sources—we have taken into consideration this question of reducing the threat to security by adopting some measures to organize movements in these areas. We have taken measures to reduce the consequences or the problems encountered by the citizens who go to or travel in these areas. [passage omitted]

The privatization bill is the guarantee for privatization. There ought to be a law which applies to all and which would include certain measures. We will do our best to ensure that a number of participants take part in discussions on this and give their opinions. We have enlarged the scope for consultation with all the participants and all those who can benefit us in this connection, like university graduates, the education council, and all other sides. We also take into account the supervision. We will set up supervision committees.

Before the bill, we began by privatizing four or five hotels. Personally I am rather worried about this. Personally I am apprehensive. State funds, public money, must not be wasted or squandered. Therefore, we must take into consideration this supervision question. I proposed the formation of a committee in which there will be people who have the abilities needed and who are independent from the centers of decision. [passage omitted]

We have been living through a security situation in the whole of Algeria. All citizens have to face this situation, therefore it is an issue that concerns every citizen. If there is an improvement in the economy and other fields, it is the citizen who can sense or not sense it. As a citizen, my feeling, according to the information I have, is that there is a great improvement. [passage omitted]

This improvement is due to the work of the security services and in particular to the attitude of the Algerian people, the attitude of our citizens, who now are denouncing terrorism and have been, directly, frankly, and with openness making their views known in the streets. We have also observed that people have been offering some help within the framework of the struggle against terrorism and within the framework of rejecting terrorism. Things have improved and we expect them to continue improving. We hope that all Algerians, regardless of their affiliations or tendencies, will unite and act as one so that we can get out of this crisis. If there are any problems we solve them ourselves.

I am optimistic. If I were not optimistic, first I would not be in the government, and second I would not even think of myself as a citizen. I consider that every Algerian citizen should be optimistic, and just as he believes in God he should believe that we will get out of this crisis, believe in his people and his country. Even this hope and this belief will help us to get out of the crisis, God willing.

[Correspondent] This hope, and also the solution of the Algerian crisis, bring us on to the question of elections, which are seen as the optimum solution, as the head of state stressed, for getting us out of this crisis. Preparations are now under way. So, Mr. Prime Minister, how do you assess the preparations for the presidential elections to be held before the end of this year?

[Sifi] When the head of state mentioned the elections, he said they are a stage within the framework of solving this crisis and getting out of it. On the other hand, the elections in themselves are not announced as a surprise or something new. It is not something new. We went back to the platform of national census which gives great importance to dialogue. But dialogue as a mere word does not have any meaning. The platform gives the dialogue some meaning, and it is now a concept with a framework and a goal. We have talked a lot about the framework and there are many aims, but many people forget this. The framework is respect for the Constitution and for other important things, particularly that Islam is the religion of the state, that there is democracy, alternation of power, etc. The aim is elections. [passage omitted]

From this point of view, the elections are a foregone result of any dialogue. And the dialogue must also have a framework as regards its scope. It must be so. Therefore there will be elections at the end of the year, God willing, but the dialogue will remain open as regards the preparation for the elections, and the framework of preparing for them, their technical aspects, the policy for running the elections, and everything of concern to Algeria.

This leads us to recall the stance of the head of state, which he has often stressed, and also to take this opportunity to say something. Many people forget that the head of state in every statement, every statement, talks about dialogue and proves that he is open to dialogue. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Will we be on time regarding the technical and security aspects? We do not yet know the date of the elections. All we know is that they will be held before the end of the year. Will the technical and, particularly, security aspects be adequately ensured, because there are some quarters and people who doubt it.

[Sifi] The date of the election is a complicated matter which depends on many issues, such as preparing the law and making other preparations. As far as I know, everything is proceeding satisfactorily. Some provinces are ready for the elections to start.

We have also noticed that there has been great improvement in matters of security. However, even in foreign countries security is a relative term; there is no complete calm. Complete calm does not exist in any country. We can see what is happening in Algeria and in other countries. We have taken every measure and are determined to take any other measures needed to ensure that the elections proceed peacefully in so far as security is concerned and are well prepared from the technical aspect. The same applies to the environment, if you allow the term, in order to enable the Algerian people to elect freely and transparently the candidates they want. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Mr. Prime minister, the last question concerns the Tamazigh [Berber language] issue, because some eight months ago we reached a turning point on this issue. It appears, according to some reports, that in the last period there appeared to be prospects of a relaxation, if one can call it that, especially with regard to the last two meetings between the head of state and representatives of the Tamazigh demand. Are there signs of relaxation, and how do you see the next steps so that the education of the pupils and students and the school year can be resumed?

[Sifi] In fact, this problem ought be solved today and not tomorrow. We must find a solution to it as soon as possible. The most important thing in my opinion is the children and the pupils who remain without education. This affects me a great deal as a citizen and it affects the entire Algerian people.

There was a demand, which I championed, that the Tamazigh language be taught as an Algerian language. Another important point is the question of the Tamazigh identity. I also championed this. In my opinion this demand cannot be kept hidden, and one answer is that we state or issue a decree saying that the Tamazigh language is a national language.

The Constitution states that the national language is Arabic. We cannot change the Constitution simply by issuing a decree. This is impossible. The Constitution is the most important thing in the country. As we have a Constitution, every Algerian must respect the Constitution.

If we take all these things and all the aspects of this issue into account, we hope to reach an understanding and find a solution to this problem as soon as possible. As in other fields I am optimistic. Algeria cannot remain divided, especially in this difficult stage.

[Correspondent] Finally, Mr. Prime Minister, we would like you to put a last question to yourself. What is the question that you would like to put as today's prime minister to yourself?

[Sifi] The last question could be: Do you think that the results which the government has arrived at are good or not? As a citizen I would say they were not good, because we are hoping to reach a higher standard. I expect more from Algeria and more from myself as a citizen and more from our citizens. We have tremendous potentials. Our problem in Algeria is how to put these potentials together. [passage omitted]

Egypt

Musa: NPT Extension for 'Short Terms' Favored

NC1804074995 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0630 GMT 18 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 18 Apr (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has affirmed that Egypt did not and will not think of withdrawing from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT]. Egypt, he added, is trying to improve the treaty and obtain the nuclear states' commitment to provide adequate guarantees for nonnuclear states, including Egypt.

In an interview with AL-AHRAM to be published today, Musa added that Egypt's policy is not based on this attitude but on the need to include Israel in the treaty and to subject its nuclear program, which is close to our borders, to inspection. This is because it constitutes a threat to our and the region's security. The foreign minister pointed out that it is unacceptable that Egypt and the Arab states be asked to vote for an indefinite extension of the treaty while Israel is exempted from this obligation. He emphasized that accordingly, Egypt will not vote for an indefinite extension.

Musa stressed that Egypt's position on this issue is firm and that there has been no retreat in this regard. He added: We have not come under U.S. or Japanese pressure, as reports have recently suggested, but we explained our views clearly and frankly.

Musa told AL-AHRAM that if it is in the U.S. interest to extend the treaty indefinitely, Egypt's interests do not conform with the interests of the United States or the other nuclear states on this point. Thus, he added, we prefer to have the treaty extended for short terms to be subject to regular revision as long as the Israeli nuclear program remains as it is. He added: In view of the danger this situation creates for our national and pan-Arab security, we will not stop talking about it and will not disregard it or remain silent about it until Israel complies with the international obligations. Musa emphasized that leaving the Israeli nuclear program outside the framework of international legitimacy will open the door for a nuclear arms race in the region.

The foreign minister noted that the Egyptian-Israeli relations do not mean that Egypt is supposed to refrain from raising whatever issues may disturb Israel. He added: Our position and opinion are quite independent and will remain so, particularly regarding the credibility of the peace process. We support a comprehensive and balanced Arab-Israeli peace and are against a peace that suits Israel's mood and is under its terms.

Musa denied reports that Egypt had promised the United States not to instigate the Arab states against the NPT. He added: This is not true, simply because the Arab states do not need any instigation because they are extremely worried about their security because of Israel's nuclear armament and are searching for guarantees for their security. Thus, they have many big questions regarding this situation on the one hand and on the credibility of the NPT and Israel's exemption from signing it on the other hand.

Musa To Outline NPT 'Shortcomings' in New York

NC1704140995 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 17 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Husni Mubarak before noon today received Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa before Musa's departure for New York to attend the international conference on reviewing the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] provisions and determining its extension, which is scheduled to open this evening.

Egypt's delegation led by 'Amr Musa left Cairo for New York this afternoon to attend the conference. The foreign minister will deliver Egypt's speech at the conference on Thursday [20 April] defining Egypt's stance on the NPT and asserting the treaty's universality; that is, that all countries should sign. Musa also will explain Egypt's stance on the treaty's shortcomings, especially regarding guarantees given to nonnuclear states.

Some 60,000 citizens in al-Minufiyah Governorate voiced their support for President Mubarak's stance on the NPT and the declaration of Egypt's clear position on the issue. A popular conference held in al-Khatatibah Village in Markaz al-Sadat, al-Minufiyah Governorate, also voiced support for the president's successful measures in foreign policy to achieve peace in the Middle East and his domestic policy to achieve economic reform.

[Reporting Foreign Minister Musa's departure for New York, Cairo MENA in Arabic at 1235 GMT on 17 April says: "Musa stated before his departure that he will explain in his address to the conference after tomorrow, Wednesday [as received], the importance of the treaty being global with no exceptions.

"He said: We will also explain Egypt's stance on the guarantees that non-nuclear states must obtain to confront any nuclear aggression against them.

"On allowing aircraft carrying Libyan pilgrims to cross Egyptian airspace, he said contacts are currently underway between Egypt and Libya and several other countries to facilitate the pilgrims' travel."]

NPT Position Said Already Decided After U.S. Visit

NC1704204095 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 14 Apr 95 p 7

[Article by 'Abd-al-Sattar al-Tawilah: "The Facts About What Happened in Washington; Will We Sign or Will We Not?"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Will we sign or not? This is the question people asked me when I returned from a trip to Washington to cover President Husni Mubarak's visit to the United States. And I think the same question was addressed to every journalist or member of the delegation that accompanied the president. The reference here is to the signing of, or indeed the voting on, the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT], which is due on 12 May, 24 days after the opening of the international conference on the pact. [passage omitted]

From what we saw and heard, and from the discussions in which we were involved during the visit, we can say that Egypt's position has already been decided. The clamor over the NPT centers on the differences with the United States over the treaty. That is, the problem was Egyptian-American; Israel's role appeared weak. It appeared that the primary enthusiast for changing Egypt's position was the United States, and that Israel's role was only to fan the flames. But Mubarak's visit changed this, changed the parties to the dispute. After the visit, the dispute became Egyptian-Israeli, not Egyptian-American.

Let us explain this further. A list of U.S. demands or positions was awaiting President Mubarak in Washington. The Americans had supported the IMF's recommendations. The IMF calls on Egypt to speed up the privatization program and accuses Egyptian officials of being slow to implement this program on the "pretext" of preserving social peace. [passage omitted]

The Americans also had in its arsenal threats to stop or cut U.S. aid to Egypt. Some Congressmen referred in particular to the military aid—that is, to the $1.3 billion worth of weapons Egypt receives every year. Another trump card was the announcement that the United States intended to impose further restrictions on Libya as part of the current unjust embargo on that country; namely, banning the sale of Libyan oil. This, of course, would be a blow to or cause trouble for the Egyptian economy. For, the Libyans would not be able to finance any projects requiring our labor force, or even to buy food. Hundreds of thousands of Egyptian workers [in Libya] would be displaced, and the trade between Egypt and Libya would suffer a disaster. There were, of course, other cards, such as U.S. investment in Egypt and so on.

The Egyptians knew this. Everything became known during the talks that were held before Mubarak's visit. Dr. Usamah al-Baz started those preliminary talks, and he was later followed by Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, whose abilities and brilliance are admired by the Egyptians and the Arabs. But the most important issue of concern to the Egyptian side was the NPT. It became clear to the Americans that Egypt was not prepared to abandon its position on the Treaty. So, the United States used a smart political tactic, indeed. They told the Egyptians: Well, stick to your position if you like, but we have two proposals to make:

The first proposal is that you leave the United States out of it. Let the problem be between you and Israel, and try to solve it together and agree on something satisfactory for both of you.

The second proposal is that while you take whatever position you like, we only hope that you will not instigate other countries in the Arab world or the Third World to vote against the NPT. What is meant here is that Egypt should not try to play an active role in mobilizing those countries, especially when the foreign ministers of the Bandung Conference states meets on 23 April to mark the 40th anniversary of the conference's opening. The Egyptian side accepted the two U.S. proposals, with some amendments to underline Egypt's sovereignty. All tension in Egyptian-U.S. relations ended immediately, and hints of pressure in regard to the IMF recommendations or U.S. aid stopped. The aid issue was not discussed at any time, and President Mubarak was able to say publicly that the aid is in the interest of the United States itself, and that Egypt does not expect it to continue indefinitely.

Thus, Egypt has chances for extensive discussions with Israel, until 12 May, before it makes the decision that it believes to be in harmony with the interests of Egyptian security, even if this decision is not to vote for the NPT if Israel adamantly refuses to make any concessions—namely, if it fails to set a timeframe for joining the treaty and allowing the IAEA to inspect its nuclear facilities.

Egypt's position, in this case, will not cause any problems with the United States, especially since the majority of states are expected to vote for the Treaty and consequently it will be binding on all world countries. Egypt has no intention of making atomic bombs. No secret activity for this can take place with the establishment of close friendly relations between Egypt and the Unite States and with the Egyptian Army's dependence on U.S. arms. Moreover, the two countries, after achieving a just and comprehensive peace, will be involved in Middle Eastern projects for political and economic cooperation in the region, away from the atmosphere of tension and war that has dominated the region for more than half a century because of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

As for the peace process, the United States asked Egypt to help to promote an agreement between Syria and Israel. President Clinton believes that if this is achieved, his status will be strengthened and he may win huge support from the American people for his reelection to another term after the current decline in his popularity and that of the Democratic Party. [passage omitted]

We hope the reader will find the answer to the question: Will we sign or not? If he has not found it, we can but hope he will reread the article.

Commentary on NPT Stance, Israeli Position

NC1704155095 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1240 GMT 17 Apr 95

[Commentary by Mahmud Marzuq: "Peace and the Nuclear Deterrent"]

[FBIS Translated Text] A conference to review and extend the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] begins in New York today with 172 countries, including Egypt, attending.

Observers are awaiting Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa's address to the conference because it defines all aspects of the Egyptian stance on extending the nuclear treaty, the need for all countries to join in, and the work to render the Middle East an area free of weapons of mass destruction.

What is clear is that Egypt's efforts to tackle the nuclear armaments issue have stretched over many years, since it called at world conferences for ridding the Middle East of weapons of mass destruction and effectively contributed with the United Nations to negotiations designed to conclude and actually implement the NPT. Egypt deposited the NPT instruments of ratification with the Government of the United Kingdom on 26 February 1981.

As it demands the treaty's application, Egypt seeks to rectify matters as long as there is talk about a genuine peace in the region. Egypt's stance is based on two fundamental points. First, at a stage when there is talk about making peace, a comprehensive security cannot materialize in the region while Israel alone possesses nuclear weapons at a time when it refuses to sign the NPT. This means that it refuses to place its nuclear program and installations under inspection.

The second point on which Egypt's stance is based is that Egypt in principle does not refuse to sign the NPT, but it sees the necessity and inevitability of Israel signing the treaty. There is no stronger evidence of the credibility of Egypt's stance and its good intentions than President Husni Mubarak's initiative to clear the Middle East of weapons of mass destruction, and this applies to all the region's states without exception.

In the meantime, Israel gives some pretexts or justifications for its refusal to sign the NPT which are rejected. When Israel claims that it will sign the treaty after the peace process in the region is complete, the immediate question which comes to mind is: Who is the one hampering the peace process, not fulfilling its requirements, and not implementing the provisions of agreements with the Palestinian side? Besides, how can a genuine peace be established while Israel alone possess nuclear weapons with which it poses a real threat to the security of other parties in the region.

Israel's possession of nuclear weapons, in addition to its refusal to sign the NPT will only drive the region into an arms race in an attempt to achieve a state of strategic balance, which is absolutely necessary and has no alternative in achieving the principle of reciprocal security. We do not believe that it is possible under any circumstances to accept a peace that only meets the Israeli security requirements without achieving peace for all other parties in the region.

In the context of a just and comprehensive peace in the region, we do not believe that there is anyone against security for Israel within the efforts to achieve reciprocal security for everyone without exception.

Today Egypt is holding the international community to its responsibility to achieve a commitment to ward off the danger represented by the possession of nuclear weapons by some parties who also are not signatories to the treaty. Providing guarantees for nonnuclear states is not enough because this does not prevent disorder in the required balance, especially with the danger of the use of nuclear weapons.

Within these constants, we have the right to say that a genuine peace cannot materialize in an atmosphere of an arms race. Furthermore, any disorder in the region's balance of power will cause a threat to the security of other parties and wipe out the possibility of perpetuating mutual security.

As the peace process in the region appears to be linked one way or another with Israel's possession of nuclear weapons, it would be useful, provided the intentions are good, if the peace would turn into a comprehensive package, in other words land for peace. A peace that achieves mutual stability and security cannot be achieved except through a balance of power and the elimination of weapons of mass destruction.

U.S. NPT Stance Said 'Safeguarding' Interests

NC1404203995 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 11 Apr 95 p 8

[From the "Closeup" Column by Salamah Ahmad Salamah: "Wicked Countries and Orphan Countries"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Most of the current U.S. efforts, discussions, and pressure to drive the countries of the world to endorse the extension of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] are focused on a limited host of countries that the Americans call the "deceptive" or "wicked" countries. They mean the countries that it is feared will compromise U.S. interests should they obtain nuclear potential. The United States adopts this stance on the assumption that the political goals of these countries' contravene U.S. interests and not because they might use these weapons to achieve their goals. Some of the examples that the Americans cite are Iraq and Iran. The United States accuses both these countries of pursuing policies that conflict with U.S. interests.

In other cases, such as with North Korea, the United States believes that this country's possession of nuclear weapons may encourage it to impose unity on South Korea by force, which also contravenes the goals of U.S. policy. Moreover, even if North Korea does not pursue an aggressive policy against South Korea, it might find itself tempted to sell nuclear arms and equipment to other countries.

The United States sometimes listed other countries, such as Syria, Libya, and Algeria, with this host of nations, particularly in the period that preceded the collapse of the Soviet Union. It used this as a means of pressure and blockade so that nuclear weapons would not be sneaked into the region.

The United States used all possible means to prevent nuclear proliferation, excepting Israel. In fact, one of the main reasons behind "Desert Storm," in which the United States used its military might against Iraq, was to deprive it of nuclear resources as a goal that took precedence over the liberation of Kuwait. The Americans themselves admitted this.

Regarding Israel, the United States considers it one of the "orphan" countries struggling for its survival because its neighbors do not recognize the legitimacy of its existence and because it is deprived of defense agreements to protect it, such as NATO, which ensures that the U.S. nuclear umbrella covers the European countries.

Although Pakistan—which sided completely with the United States during the Cold War and faced India, a strong neighbor and stubborn nuclear opponent—was regarded as one of the "orphan" countries for a while, the United States did not leave it alone afterwards. On the contrary, it took care to oppose Pakistan's nuclear program and pressured it to halt and terminate it.

The conclusion that we want to draw is that while the United States tries to prevent the nonnuclear nations from obtaining nuclear weapons, it does nothing worth mentioning to make the nuclear nations join the NPT. The criterion has not been resisting the dangers of nuclear annihilation as much as safeguarding U.S. interests.

Indyk Appointment as U.S. Envoy to Israel Questioned

NC1704193995 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 13 Apr 95 p 3

[From the "Good Morning" column by Sa'id Sunbul]

[FBIS Translated Text] For about half a century, the United States had been careful not to appoint Jewish ambassadors to Israel so that they would not promote Israeli interests at the expense of U.S. interests!

But the White House recently violated this rule, appointing Martin Indyk as U.S. ambassador to Israel. He is the first Jewish American to fill this post.

The new envoy to Israel is an interesting character worthy of consideration. Born in England in 1952, he is a new immigrant. He was raised and educated in Australia and left for the United States in the mid-eighties. He obtained a residence permit in 1987. He worked as director of the newly-established Washington Institute for Near Eastern Studies, and he had links with the pro-Israeli Jewish community.

The Washington Institute group has managed to make it to the most important posts at the White House and the State Department. It has taken charge of U.S. policies in the Middle East, engineering U.S. relations in the region!

I met Martin Indyk, the director of the Washington Institute, in the late eighties. I was introduced to him by Muhammad Wahbi, the then Egyptian media counselor. Indyk did not conceal his enthusiasm for and links with the Israelis, especially the young generation of the Likud Party, to whom he is more inclined than to the old guards, such as Yitzhaq Shamir!

Since that time, I was eager, whenever I travelled to the United States, to meet Indyk to learn from him about the Israeli position, or more precisely, about the American position!

In mid-1992, Indyk applied for U.S. citizenship. Usually, the processing of such an application takes some time. But before the Immigration Department had made a decision, Anthony Lake, director of the White House's National Security Council, offered Indyk the job of first adviser to the U.S. president for Middle Eastern affairs! Indyk left his post at Washington Institute and took up the new job. In addition to that, he became the representative of the U.S. President on the peace team that is led by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

The U.S. President recently appointed him ambassador to Israel despite criticism over his close links to pro-Israel Jewish groups!

On Monday [10 April] evening, I saw on television the new U.S. ambassador to Israel presenting his credentials to Israeli President 'Ezer Weizman. When, in his speech on this occasion, he called on the Palestinians to eliminate terrorism in the areas under their control and said that his country is not happy with the presence of terrorists there, I do not know why I imagined that the speaker was Israel's ambassador to the United States, not the U.S. ambassador to Israel.

Daily: Hamas, Islamic Jihad Ruining Peace Process

NC1604060295 Cairo AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I in Arabic 10 Apr 95 p 2

[Editorial: "The Only Way To Confront Terrorism"]

[FBIS Translated Text] I would like to begin by stating that no one can defend terrorism, regardless of its objectives. I mean by terrorism the use of violence against civilians to kill or maim them even if the objective is to defend legitimate nationalist causes. Indeed, I believe that terrorist actions against civilians harm any real national liberation movement and deprive it of its supporters and sympathizers in the world.

In light of this position, I condemn yesterday's two terrorist actions against Israeli settlers in the Gaza Strip. I believe that Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Islamic Jihad, which claimed responsibility for the two operations, are serving schemes that are inimical to the Palestinian people and that seek to ruin the peace process.

Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat was right to proclaim his determination yesterday to combat terrorism and to reveal that part of the finances of Hamas and Islamic Jihad come from the United States, Kuwait, and Iran. 'Arafat said that the perpetrators of the two incidents are enemies of peace and are seeking, together with similar groups on the Israeli side, to place new obstacles in front of the peace operation.

I would like at this point to clarify certain facts that we should not forget whenever we discuss terrorist actions.

The first fact: After the collapse of the USSR and the rest of the communist camp, a new Mecca of international terrorism came into being. It nurtured and financed terrorist networks and gave them instructions either directly or from a distance. I am afraid that many Western intelligence agencies, notably the CIA and the Israeli Mosad, are involved in this unholy activity that seeks to achieve political aims by exploiting terrorists. The United States and many European countries play host to terrorists who work against their own countries, particularly Middle Eastern, Arab, and Muslim terrorists. It can be said that backing terrorism is no longer confined to Iran and Sudan and for this reason 'Arafat was right when he said that part of the terrorists' financing comes from the United States, Kuwait, and Iran.

The second fact: The terrorist operations carried out by Hamas and Islamic Jihad against Israeli civilians always come at a time when the peace process is immobile or slow as a result of Israeli intransigence and the Rabin government's inability to fulfill its commitments according to the Oslo agreement and the subsequent Cairo and Washington agreements. This places peace supporters in Palestine and the Arab and Islamic worlds in an embarrassing position before the public, who reads and hears every day about the endless Israeli procrastination.

The third fact: Extremism, terrorism, and hostility to peace are not an exclusively Palestinian profession but are also an Israeli vice. Just as there are Hamas and Islamic Jihad on the Palestinian side, there are Kach, Kahane, and even Likud itself on the Israeli side. All of these are Israeli groups and political parties that oppose peace and advocate war, tension, and instability in the Middle East.

The fourth fact: The peace process is not stumbling on the Palestinian track alone, but is also faltering on all the other tracks. It is not isolated from the daily clashes between the Lebanese national resistance on one side and the Israeli occupation forces and Lahd's puppet army on the other in south Lebanon. During these clashes, Israel, which is a state and not an organization, perpetrates acts that put terrorist organizations and individual terrorists to shame.

In light of this, the only sound way to combat terrorism is to hasten the peace steps. 'Arafat will not be able to stop Hamas and Islamic Jihad nor will the Lebanese state be able to stop Hizballah unless they have a strong hand. They can only have such a strong hand if they can demonstrate some peace gains and achievements by retrieving territory, safeguarding national sovereignty, nurturing economic growth, creating jobs, and generally raising living standards.

Musa Discusses Libyan Pilgrims' Air Travel

NC1704175395 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 14 Apr 95 p 1

[Report by Rabi' Shahin]

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has stated that Egypt is considering the Libyan decision regarding Libyan pilgrims' travel to the Holy Land by air. He stressed that Egypt has not yet made a decision defining its stance on this issue. In an exclusive statement to AL-SHA'B, he said that Egypt is seeking a stance that will reconcile the Libyan decision on the pilgrims' travel by air and the Security Council's resolution imposing an aerial embargo on Libya.

It has been learned that Cairo is holding intensive contacts with all parties, particularly the Security Council permanent members and the United Nations to make an exception for the Libyan pilgrims' air travel in view of the pilgrims' sacred mission and to show respect for the Islamic World's feelings about this sacred duty. It has also been learned that Egypt bases its stance on the invalidation of evidence regarding the accusation of Libya in the Lockerbie issue, which justifies a reconsideration by the Security Council of all its resolutions and measures against Libya.

Musa emphasized that Egypt will continue to oppose Israel's nuclear arsenal because it constitutes a source of danger to Egyptian and Arab security. He said that Egypt's stance on the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] has not yet been finally defined. He noted that Egypt is considering a number of alternatives, on the basis of which a decision will be made consistent with our interests and national security.

Musa declined to disclose his discussions with Zionist Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres in Paris and whether it had failed or if proposals were made. He stressed, however, that dialogue and exchanges of views with Israel are continuing. He said that Egypt's stance on the renewal of the NPT will continue to hinge on any change in Israel's stance.

Minister Denies Arrests of Doctors, Lawyers

NC1604144895 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1405 GMT 16 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 16 Apr (MENA)—Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi has denied that the Ministry arrested a number of doctors and lawyers. He clarified that all the Muslim Brotherhood defendants currently in prison are being held on charges in a number of cases upon decision from the prosecution, which is the body responsible for prison operations.

After he opened the conference on traffic discipline on Egyptian streets at the Police Academy today, the interior minister said in a press statement that there is no single decision to detain people. He pointed out that investigations continue of the defendants who belong to the Muslim Brotherhood in order to clarify their roles.

The interior minister also confirmed that the detention operations were not haphazard or indiscriminate. He denied reports published in some newspapers claiming that the Interior Ministry had arrested a number of doctors and lawyers. He asserted that such reports do not serve the interests of national security and stability.

Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi affirmed that the phenomenon of terrorism has been contained completely and that the security situation is now reassuring, as testified to by foreign experts. This has put Egypt on the tourism map once again.

On the traffic discipline conference, the interior minister said that some recommendations will be issued by the conference and these will be implemented and adhered to. These recommendations will be presented to the concerned ministers and will be studied at the highest levels.

He said that after presenting the recommendations to the ministers, they will be presented to the Council of Ministers to set the necessary budget. After that, a committee consisting of employees from the various participating ministries will be formed to implement and follow up the recommendations on discipline in the Egyptian streets. He clarified that this is the scientific and civilized way to confront the problem.

Muslim Militants Claim State Torture; Trial Postponed

NC1604184495 Paris AFP in English 1754 GMT 16 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, April 16 (AFP)—Egypt's military high court on Sunday [16 April] ordered medical examinations for seven defendants claiming police torture in the trial of 42 people accused of membership of the Islamic militant group Tala'i' al-Fath.

The court adjourned [and] set an April 29 date for the next session of the trial of the defendants, who are charged with being members of the military wing of the al-Jihad group. The case began on April 12.

Defence lawyers who requested the medical examinations also called for the transfer of all the defendants to a military prison, citing "the inhumane conditions" and "torture" they face in Turrah, their current prison.

The court transferred an eighth defendant suffering from heart troubles to Turrah hospital.

All the defendants, accused of belonging to "a secret organization aiming to overthrow the state," face the death penalty if found guilty. Two of them have also been charged with killing a policeman and two Coptic Christians in a February 1994 attack in Cairo.

Three others have already received sentences ranging from 17 to 32 years of hard labour for involvement in the 1981 assassination of President Anwar al-Sadat or membership of al-Jihad.

Tala'i' al-Fath (Vanguard of Conquest) threatened on Friday to commit new attacks in a communique sent to the London-based Arab daily AL-HAYAH.

The 42 people were arrested in Alexandria and northern Egypt last December, in what the security forces said was the latest in a series of blows they have dealt to the armed group since 1993.

Military courts have condemned to death 23 members of Tala'i' al-Fath since December 1992, and several executions have been carried out.

The group, whose leader Ayman al-Zawahiri lives outside Egypt, claimed responsibility for two failed attacks in 1993 against Prime Minister 'Atif Sidqi and Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Backs Proposal for Bombing Suspects

LD1704221295 London PRESS ASSOCIATION in English 2206 GMT 17 Apr 95

[By John Clark, PA News]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Libyan leader Colonel al-Qadhdhafi has given his support to a new move to bring the Lockerbie bombing suspects to trial, a Conservative MP said today.

Allan Stewart, MP for Eastwood, has suggested a change to Scottish law to permit a judge and jury from Scotland to hear the case abroad. Mr Stewart said this would meet the Libyans' worry about their citizens receiving a fair trial in Scotland.

The Libyans are wanted by Britain and the US for their alleged role in the murder of 270 people when Pan Am Flight 103 was blown out of the sky over Lockerbie in December 1988.

During his week-long trip to Libya, Mr Stewart met Colonel al-Qadhdhafi and outlined his proposal to amend the Criminal Justice (Scotland) Bill which would enable Scottish Secretary Ian Lang to permit a full trial by a Scottish judge and jury abroad.

Mr Stewart said: "Colonel al-Qadhdhafi had clearly briefed himself on the proposals.... He said the Libyan Government supported them as a possible way through."

However, Alistair Duff, the lawyer acting for the two Libyan suspects, said the latest move was not acceptable to them. They were concerned that any Scottish or American jury would have been affected by adverse publicity and would be unable to reach a verdict which would be objective. "The idea that you could overcome that problem by having the jury sit in The Hague or Paris or Brussels rather than in Glasgow or Edinburgh or Washington is clearly not on. If the jury are prejudiced they are prejudiced wherever they sit," he added.

He said the two Libyan suspects favoured the option of a trial in The Hague before an international panel of judges headed by a Scottish judge and conducted according to Scottish rules of evidence and procedure. "They are agreeable to standing trial but not in the US or the UK," he said.

Al-Qadhdhafi on Threat of 'Western Colonialism'

LD1604223395 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 16 Apr 95

[Speech by leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi upon receiving participants of the African Labor Committee, in Tripoli on 16 April—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] Have they suffered in order to arrive in Libya? They are welcome among the Libyan people.

In fact we consider it [the sanctions] a prelude to the return of colonialism to Africa and the Third World. There is no case relating to the United Nations nor to the embargo in respect of the so-called Lockerbie, it has nothing to do with it. What America can not do by itself it uses the United Nations instead to implement for its own benefit. The United Nations that we knew has finished and the United Nations is now a tool in the hands of America.

We believe that Western colonialism is now moving toward Africa again. Plurality and the imposition of the so-called democracy on Africa are approaches for colonialism. The West naturally wants to blow up the African mosaic in order to return it to tribalism.

Because Africa is composed of tribes, they want to return it to tribalism. This is evident in the Horn of Africa and in central Africa—Rwanda and Burundi.

Regrettably, the weak political and economic state in African countries has encouraged colonialism to move in, and there is no resistance to that except from Libya.

We urge African countries to adopt the same stance as Libya, otherwise Africa will lose its independence again.

Do not think that America will help an African state to emerge from backwardness. Because this is contradictory to the nature of imperialism, for imperialism means the control of the world and thus, it requires every other party to be weak in order for it to be able to control.

Any state that cooperates with America will either become an American colony under American control or else it will destroy it. Either it becomes a satellite or a sphere of influence, or it [America] will destroy it. Cooperation with America leads to the destruction of the state's economy and undermines its production.

You must have heard of the new orientations of NATO toward Africa, starting with the north in order to penetrate Africa. It is clear that NATO intends to be the military power that dominates the new world. We have to be aware of the international situation that is very serious as far as we are concerned.

Concerning your tasks I have two short observations that I would like to conclude with.

First, if we believe that there are workers in Africa; that there is a working class in Africa; then, they must become partners not wage earners and [words indistinct]. Your work must lead to changing them from wage earners to partners. This is the historical solution to the workers conditions.

As far as your [as heard] country, Libya, is concerned, there is an unorganized migration toward Libya from African states. This may cause harm to the migrants. There is no African country north of the equator without some of its people in Libya.

The economic sanctions imposed on Libya have had great impact on it. Consequently, it cannot provide opportunities for these brother Africans. There are no opportunities for them, particularly if the UN imperialist sanctions continue. These workers have found themselves in a difficult position in Libya. They are without work and are even exposed to famine and death.

It is very important that I tell you this, considering that I am not a head of state. In this case I am a neutral African and I view African workers, whether they are from Libya or another country, in the same way.

We hope that at your gathering in Libya you will find a solution before a catastrophe strike those people. If they cannot find work they will not find food and that means they will die. Death is expected in this situation. You have to save them before they reach that condition.

It is also possible that, if they found the means, they could find their way to Europe and this would create a totally new international situation. They might arrange with a ship owner or boat owner to pay him for taking them to the shores of Europe. If that happens once Libya will become a bridge to cross between Africa and Europe and a new serious situation will evolve.

Sudan

Vice President Meets Russian Minister

EA1604174595 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 16 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The first vice president of the Republic, Major General al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih, today in his office at the Republican Palace received Mr. Viktor Bosvaluka, the Russian deputy foreign minister with whom he discussed relations between the two countries and the political situation in Russia. They also reviewed bilateral cooperation and the projects being implemented by Russia in Sudan. They also touched on the new world order, which targets oppressed states.

Maj. Gen. al-Zubayr briefed the Russian official on the government's peace efforts in the south and the country's economic, political and social evolution. Maj. Gen. al-Zubayr called for the optimal benefit from Russian expertise, thereby boosting relations between the two countries. He announced that a high-level delegation would visit Moscow in May to sign a number of agreements between Sudan and Russia.

The two also stressed the need for both countries to coordinate on all international issues.

Official Criticizes U.S. Policy on Iraq

NC1504203095 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1952 GMT 15 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Khartoum, 15 Apr (INA)—Archbishop Gabriel Rodge, minister of state at the Sudanese Foreign Ministry, has called on the world community and international humanitarian organizations to shoulder their responsibilities vis-a-vis the Iraqi people's hardships and to expose the motives behind the U.S. Administration's insistence on maintaining the blockade on the Iraqi people based on illegal, immoral, and unjustifiable grounds.

In a statement to INA in Khartoum, Rodge affirmed that the Arab countries' and the international community's silence about this continuing blockade will exacerbate the existing dangers and directly threaten the lives of hundreds of thousands of Iraqi children, old people, and women as a result of the severe shortages in foodstuffs, medicines, and other basic commodities.

He added that the countries of the world must understand that lifting this unjust blockade would be an act of self-defense, a defense of dignity, and a struggle against the evil policy that hangs threateningly over the heads of free, independent nations.

Archbishop Rodge held the Arab and Islamic regimes fully responsible for allowing the U.S. Administration to persist in its hostile policy whenever the UN Security Council reviews the blockade of Iraq. He said that in the eyes of the law and the UN Charter's human rights provisions, this blockade is inhuman and illegal and constitutes an infringement of the Iraqi people's legitimate right to export their oil resources and lead a normal life.

Tunisia

Partnership Agreement Signed With European Union

LD1304102495 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 13 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In a communique issued yesterday evening [12 April], the Foreign Ministry announced that at the inducement of President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali—who is keen on rising to the challenges imposed by the liberalization of the world economy and the transformations experienced by the world and on winning the bet of integrating the Tunisian economy into the world economy—and in compliance with the appeal his excellency made at the highest platform of the European Parliament to establish a mutually beneficial development policy and partnership with Europe, Tunisia has initiated talks with the European Union aimed at concluding a partnership agreement that is not confined to traditional domains, but also provides the opportunity for integration into European economic space.

The negotiations undertaken for that purpose culminated in the signing of a partnership agreement between the two sides. The two negotiators Mr. Mezghani, the Tunisian charge d'affaires at the European Union, and Mr. (Raoun), for the European Commission, initialed this agreement yesterday.

When implemented, this agreement will support the cooperation agreement signed in 1976. The new agreement stipulates carrying out cooperation operations that will underpin Tunisia's policy in the field of modernizing its economy and improving its capabilities, especially in the industrial field, to increase its competitiveness in preparation for the stage of free trade.

According to this agreement, Tunisia will have to establish, gradually, a free trade zone with the European Union.

This agreement is considered the first within a series of new agreements responding to the spirit of European-Mediterranean partnership. The initialing of this agreement has special importance as it represents the foundation stone in the establishment of the European-Mediterranean economic space.

Further on Agreement

LD1404143395 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 14 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A partnership agreement signed between Tunisia and the European Union in Brussels seeks to lay down down a partnership that goes beyond the traditional domains of cooperation to allow for Tunisia to be integrated into the European economic activities. The new agreement provides for the carrying out of cooperation operations aimed at bolstering Tunisia's economic modernization policy in industry and agriculture. By signing this agreement, Tunisia has made the first step toward laying down a new relationship with the European common market. This agreement provides in particular for the gradual removal of customs barriers on the exchange of goods between the two sides over 12 years, with a four-year grace period starting with 1996, and this concerns the most sensitive [as heard] Tunisian goods. With regard to agricultural products, the grace period accorded to our country on the European market will be five years pending an agreement within the World Trade Organization.

Among the benefits Tunisia will reap under this agreement in the agricultural field will be the renewal of the already agreed olive oil annual quota; i.e., the exporting of 46,000 tonnes of olive oil on extremely favorable terms well above world markets prices over four years, after which there will be a return to negotiations and dialogue on a future agreement. The second gain for our economy from this agreement will be a gradual dismantling of customs tariffs, a matter that will enable Tunisian industry to adapt to the requirements of the European market and the national industrial textiles to bear competition with the European industrial products.

One of the articles of the Tunisian-European Union partnership agreement provides for Tunisian industry to meet the level of requirements of the European market. The European side has shown a clear preparedness to intensify aid to Tunisia in the technical, vocational training and financial domains, and a general program is now being finalized in Tunisia to improve industrial quality, which will be submitted to the European Union with a view to helping the Tunisian industrial enterprises penetrate the European free exchange zone on equal footing with their European counterparts.

Concerning the issue of direct investment, which is one of the provisions of the agreement in question, it is expected that the latter will give the necessary momentum for the movement of European private capitals toward our country. This movement was under the levels expected in the last years, because investments were primarily made in the energy domain.

Bahrain

Prime Minister: 'Foreign Quarter' Behind 'Incidents'

NC1804054195 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2250 GMT 17 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 17 Apr (MENA)—Bahraini Prime Minister Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Salman has said that the acts of sabotage which occurred recently in the country were aimed at striking at stability. He stressed that the culprits admitted their affiliation with an extremist illegal group which receives aid from a foreign quarter.

In an interview with AL-AHRAM to be published tomorrow [18 April], Shaykh Khalifah said: Bahrain has made progress in all domains and now has a prominent trade, tourist, and economic center. Bahrain is trying to forge ahead toward a better future. But some people are trying to halt the cycle of progress and development, foment trouble, and sow sedition in Bahrain as a prelude to transferring them to the Gulf region. All these attempts are aimed at dragging the region into a state of chaos and disturbances.

Responding to a question about the leaflets which are often distributed and which attribute the recent incidents to economic and political factors, the Bahraini prime minister said that most of these leaflets are being faxed from abroad. He maintained that it is natural for the saboteurs to deceive the citizens with false slogans. Shaykh Khalifah asked: How could these incidents be prompted by economic factors at a time when the saboteurs are trying to strike at the economic establishments and shake security?

Shaykh Khalifah denied reports that Bahrain had asked for a security cooperation with another state to curb the incidents. He said this is one of the vicious rumors disseminated by the terrorist groups to mislead the public and make themselves look much bigger than their usual size.

Shaykh Khalifah lauded Bahraini-Egyptian relations, noting that these relations are very strong. We have great appreciation and respect for President Mubarak for his diligent efforts in defense of his people and nation, Shaykh Khalifah added. He said that Egypt enjoys a leading position in the Arab world. We pin great hopes on Egypt for achieving the desired Arab solidarity, Shaykh Khalifah said. He added: We hope that the Egyptian-Bahraini cooperation will continue in all fields and that many joint projects will be initiated.

To another question about Bahrain's views on Arab reconciliation and solidarity, the Bahraini prime minister said that his country always seeks to promote Arab solidarity for the sake of the Arab nation's interests. However, he stressed that Arab solidarity must begin with effective inter-Arab economic cooperation which should not be affected by politics and their changes. The Bahraini prime minister pointed out that when this is achieved we will have a better opportunity to attain political integration. He stressed the need to stop interfering in the domestic affairs of others so long as there is nothing endangering our pan-Arab security.

Authorities: Unrest 'Nearly Over'

NC1804091795 Paris AFP in English 0832 GMT 18 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Manama, April 18 (AFP)—Bahrain authorities said Tuesday [18 April] that sporadic unrest here was nearly over and blamed extremist religious groups for planning the troubles.

In a statement published by local papers, Interior Minister Muhammad Bin-Khalifa Al Khalifa said riots which broke out in early December had been "incited by a foreign organisation."

"Through investigation, information and confessions made to the judges it was clear that an extreme religious organisation was behind them," he said.

He did not name the group or which foreign body had been behind the violence, saying only the "security situation in Bahrain is stable and acts of violence and unrest are coming to an end."

On Monday diplomats held a second meeting with Shiite leaders in a bid to quell the unrest which has shaken the Gulf emirate since early December.

It followed the arrest and expulsion of a leading Shiite Muslim cleric Shaykh 'Ali Salman who had called for the restoration of parliament suspended in 1975.

Bahrain has tacitly accused Iran of influencing the Gulf archipelago's Shiite Muslim community.

The minister's statement came ahead of the opening of an extraordinary meeting in Manama of interior ministers from the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).

Bahraini authorities on Monday freed 120 detainees as diplomats said the situation was calm.

Diplomats said around a dozen civilians and policemen were killed in the unrest, while Bahraini Information Minister Tariq al-Mu'ayyad told AFP the civilian death toll was "less than 10" and three policemen had died.

Amir Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifa and Prime Minister Shaykh Khalifa Bin-Salman Al Khalifa held talks with Shiite leaders.

The riots were the worst violence to hit the emirate since it gained its independence from Britain in 1971.

Amir Confers With Jordanian Industry Minister

JN1604085695 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0628 GMT 16 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Manama, 16 Apr (WAKH)—Amir of Bahrain His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman

Al Khalifah this morning received 'Ali Abu-al-Raghib, Jordanian minister of industry and trade, who conveyed his greetings to the amir. Abu-al-Raghib is on a visit to Bahrain to attend the inauguration of the Jordanian trade fair slated for tomorrow. He will also take part in the meetings of ordinary session of the Bahraini-Jordanian Joint Committee set to open this morning.

The guest minister conveyed to his highness the amir the greetings of his brother King Husayn Bin-Talal, king of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, and his wishes of continued good health and happiness to his highness and of further advancement and prosperity to Bahrain under the amir's wise leadership.

His highness the amir welcomed the Jordanian minister of trade and wished him a pleasant stay in Bahrain. He praised the solid relations between the two sisterly countries and peoples. He said he was proud that the Jordanian trade fair will be mounted in Bahrain, an event reflecting the strong Bahraini-Jordanian trade and economic relations.

His highness also wished success to the meetings of the Bahraini- Jordanian Joint Committee, hoping they will boost cooperation between Bahrain and Jordan. His highness underlined the role and contribution of the Jordanian community in Bahrain to the country's progress in all fields. His highness said that Bahrain looks forward to upgrading cooperation with sisterly Jordan in all areas.

For his part, the Jordanian industry and trade minister noted the emphasis his highness the amir placed on fostering cooperation and fraternal relations with Jordan and his keenness on increasing economic and trade cooperation. He commended the progress and prosperity Bahrain has realized in economic and trade fields under the leadership of his highness the amir.

The meeting was attended by Minister of Commerce and Agriculture Habib Ahmad Qasim, Commerce and Agriculture Ministry Undersecretary Hasan al-Nisf, and the Jordanian Ambassador to Bahrain Dr. Shakir 'Abd-al-Hamid 'Arabiyat.

Council of Ministers Welcomes Special GCC Meeting

LD1704131995 Riyadh SPA in English 1221 GMT 17 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Manama, April 16, SPA—The Bahrain's Council of Ministers on Sunday [16 April] welcomed the extraordinary meeting to be held by the GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] ministers of interior in Manama on Tuesday.

During a meeting presided over by Prime Minister Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, the cabinet commended the keenness and determination shown by the GCC states to enhance security cooperation between them bearing in mind that the stability of the region is inevitable element for development and prosperity.

The State Minister for Cabinet Affairs Muhammed Ibrahim al-Mutawwa' said the minister of interior briefed the cabinet on the agenda of the emergency meeting which be also attended by interior ministers of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, the UAE and Oman.

Kuwait

'Appropriate' UN Resolution on Iraq Welcomed

LD1704191695 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1638 GMT 17 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Kuwait, 17 Apr (KUNA)—The State of Kuwait welcomed UN Security Council Resolution 986 today, regarding it as an appropriate opportunity for easing the suffering of the Iraqi people.

This came during a session of the Council of Ministers held under the chairmanship of Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, acting chairman of the Council of Ministers and foreign minister.

Meanwhile, the Kuwaiti Council of Ministers demanded that international pressure on the Iraqi regime be kept to secure comprehensive and full implementation of all of the UN Security Council resolutions concerning the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait in 1990, particularly those concerning the release of all Kuwaiti prisoners of war and detainees in Iraq and the establishment of firm pillars of security and stability in the Gulf region.

It is to be recalled that UN Security Council Resolution 986, unanimously passed last Friday [14 April], allows Iraq to export $2 billion in oil over a period of six months for humanitarian purposes.

During the Council of Ministers meeting today, Kuwait expressed its appreciation for the UN Security Council member-states because the resolution provides an appropriate opportunity to ease the suffering of the Iraqi people and provide all their needs of medicines and food.

The Council of Ministers praised the role of the UN Security Council in establishing the principles of justice and legitimacy in the world. [passage omitted]

Amir Examines Bilteral Ties With Tajik President

LD1804104195 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1000 GMT 18 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His highness the amir received at Bayan Palace this morning His Excellency Emomali Rakhmanov, president of the Republic of Tajikistan, for official talks. Shaykh Nasir Muhammad al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, the minister of emiri court affairs, stated that the talks dealt with the two countries' cooperation and the development of the global situation, as well as other issues of mutual interest. An atmosphere of understanding and friendship prevailed over the talks, he added.

Minister Hails Constitutional Court Ruling

LD1704211295 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1930 GMT 17 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kuwait, 17 Apr (KUNA)—The Council of Ministers expressed hope today that the ruling of the Constitutional Court on the interpretation of Article 71 of the Constitution will put a decisive end to the current controversy on decrees having the force of laws.

This was stated at the council's session held under the chairmanship of Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, the acting prime minister and foreign minister, during which he briefed the council on, among other things, the agenda of the forthcoming session of the National Assembly, and the contents of the article on letters regarding the letter of the heir apparent and prime minister on the government's request from the constitutional court regarding the interpretation of Article 71 of the Constitution.

In this respect, the council reemphasized that that request "was made on the basis of the governments' eagerness to embody the principle of the sovereignty of the Constitution and the law and to avoid anything that might cause a controversy between the executive and the legislative authorities and in order to strengthen the required cooperation between them."

The council stressed that the request for the interpretation of Article 71 of the Constitution was also "out of the government's confidence in the supreme role of the constitutional justice and its appreciation for the high status which the just judiciary enjoys."

The council stressed also that "having recourse to the arbitration of the Constitutional Court was an absolute right provided for by the Constitution."

Shaykh Sabah pointed out that the Constitutional Court is the sole judicial authority to issue a definitive and binding interpretation of the Constitution, and to put matters in the correct perspective in the framework of full commitment to the Constitution, its rules and principles. In this respect, the council of ministers at a meeting on 26 March last announced its request that the Constitutional Court interpret the article in question of the Constitution in order to judge in the question of validity of the decrees having force of law issued at the time of the absence of parliament. In this context, Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, the heir apparent and prime minister, said in a statement on 9 April that this request was an exercise of a constitutional right agreed for both the executive and legislative authorities. He also affirmed that the government does not intend to have this request withdrawn, and he expressed his appreciation and regard for the Kuwaiti judiciary. He also said that resorting to the Constitutional Court was in implementation of the provisions of the Constitution.

Central Bank Raises Discount Rate

LD1604191495 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1752 GMT 16 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kuwait, 16 Apr—The Central Bank of Kuwait today announced an increase in the discount and re-discount rate of commercial documents to 7.25 per annum, which represents an increase of 0.25 percent.

In a statement to KUNA, Central Bank Governor Shaykh Salim 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Sabah, said that the decision aimed was at maintaining the positive developments in the base dinar deposits at commercial banks, and, consequently, maintaining the country's monetary stability.

He pointed out that the decision applicable to commercial documents offered by banks operating in Kuwait to the Central Bank, which the bank agrees to discount or re-discount, will come into effect from the date of its publication in the official gazette.

This is the fourth increase in the discount rate since last August.

United Arab Emirates

Drug Smugglers, Traders To Receive Death Sentence

JN1604111595 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 10 Apr p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] Upon instructions from the president, His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, the higher ministerial legislative committee has approved the amendment to the drug trafficking law. Those who smuggle and trade in drugs will be given the death sentence and those who use drugs will be given a minimum of four years imprisonment.

Stating this, 'Abdallah Bin-'Imran Turaym, minister of justice and committee chairman, said that this decision was made out of the president's concern about the safety of the people, especially the young, and his highness' realization that drugs are very harmful, threatening the society's peace, stability, and security.

Police Arrest Pakistani Smugglers

NC1804094595 Paris AFP in English 0849 GMT 18 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Abu Dhabi, April 18 (AFP)—Police here have seized nearly 100 kilogrammes (220 pounds) of hashish arresting five Pakistanis trying to smuggle the drugs in ketchup from the US fast-food chain McDonalds, officials said on Tuesday [18 April].

The five were arrested last week just outside Abu Dhabi, in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), as they were trying to smuggle the drugs into the emirate in a truck, Matar al-Muhayri, chief of the Abu Dhabi anti-drug squad, said.

"They used ketchup bottles and other food products by McDonalds and two other international food firms to smuggle the narcotics," he told AFP.

"It was one of the most dangerous drug operations in Abu Dhabi. The smuggling technique they used was extremely accurate and sophisticated. They could have succeeded if we were not alerted about them two months ago."

Al-Muhayri said the drugs were destined for Abu Dhabi, which has a population of around 800,000. "It is a very large amount compared to the population."

He said some of the five were residing in the UAE but declined to say where the drugs had come from.

The five are members of an international gang using different methods to traffick drugs in several parts of the world, he added without giving further details.

The UAE, a federation of seven Gulf emirates, has been targeted by international drug gangs for its proximity to narcotics producing countries, and its poorly-guarded coastline.

Last week it decided to introduce the death penalty for narcotics peddlars and tighten penalties for addicts.

Allocations for Development Projects Approved

NC1704145995 Paris AFP in English 1345 GMT 17 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Abu Dhabi, April 17 (AFP)—The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has approved lower budget allocations for development projects in 1995 despite an increase in their cost, the Planning Ministry said on Monday [17 April].

The allocations, approved by the federal cabinet, stood at 1.01 billion dirhams (275 million dollars) in the fiscal year 1995 compared with 1.27 billion dirhams (346 million dollars) in 1994, the ministry said in a report.

The projects' costs totalled 5.5 billion dirhams (1.49 billion dollars) in 1995 compared with 5.33 billion dirhams (1.45 billion dollars) in 1994.

They covered water and electricity, roads, health, education, construction, sport and other sectors. Around 825 million dirhams (224.7 million dollars) worth of new projects were endorsed this year.

According to the report, the sum includes nearly 50 million dirhams (13.6 million dollars) for a project to link the electricity networks in the UAE's seven emirates in a single grid. The project's total costs are estimated at around 700 million dirhams (190.7 million dollars).

The UAE grid is part of a greater network that will link Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states—Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Oman, Qatar, Kuwait and the UAE. Preliminary estimates have put its cost at 2.5 billion dollars.

The report said UAE federal government investment in development projects totalled 12.5 billion dirhams (3.4 billion dollars) between 1975 and 1994.

Yemen

Speaker Discusses Domestic Issues, Islam

NC1704125195 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 14 April 95 p 12

[Interview with 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, speaker of the Yemeni House of Representatives and leader of the Yemeni Reform Grouping, by Chief Editor Talal Salman and AL-SAFIR's Sanaa correspondent Hasan al-'Udayni in Sanaa on 8 April]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] [AL-SAFIR] Has Yemen come out of the war?

[Al-Ahmar] It did so on 7 July. Unity and Yemen were victorious.

[AL-SAFIR] But the general climate is worrisome, isn't it?

[Al-Ahmar] The economic situation is worrisome.

[AL-SAFIR] And politics?

[Al-Ahmar] No.

[AL-SAFIR] I have met many people here and was given the impression that the situation is worrisome.

[Al-Ahmar] We are not worried.

[AL-SAFIR] There is a clear political impasse.

[Al-Ahmar] An economic, not political, impasse. The state is experiencing an economic crisis.

[AL-SAFIR] Do you believe the problem of the south has been solved by the war?

[Al-Ahmar] There is no problem called the south. Go down to Aden, Shabwah, Hadramaut, and the other areas and you will see everything for yourself better than you can learn about it from sick politicians (al-Ahmar's son interposed here by referring to the "the fifth column"), who tried their luck and failed. We must not rely on the opinion of such people.

[AL-SAFIR] All of them?

[Al-Ahmar] Those who took part in the treason must thank God that the state has not punished them. All those who were part of the secessionist attempt are guilty. But the general amnesty applies to them.

[AL-SAFIR] Does amnesty mean that everyone can return?

[Al-Ahmar] The Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] is represented in the House of Representatives. Its new leadership has been kind to the secessionists and renegades. They are now returning to their positions in the party. This is really the YSP's business. Let its leadership decide.

[AL-SAFIR] Let me make a remark as a non-Yemeni observer. Since the YSP has such a noticeable representation in parliament, is it not strange that it is excluded from power?

[Al-Ahmar] In countries with political pluralism the majority rules. The others become the opposition. This is the rule, in life and politics.

[AL-SAFIR] Are political remedies not necessary, because the country has been in a crisis?

[Al-Ahmar] The state has taken them back and pardoned them instead of putting them on trial for treason. This amnesty and magnanimity have not been seen in other countries. When a military coup d'etat occurs in an Arab or non-Arab capital and fails, the coupists and their backers are executed. The people in question here committed treason and tried to split the country. But they have been pardoned. [passage omitted]

[AL-SAFIR] I have visited Yemen often. On each visit I heard about the corruption and also about reform. I heard the state pledge to fight and end corruption. Nowadays everyone is complaining of corruption and declaring that they will fight it. But corruption is still rampant. This makes the government lose credibility. It seems corruption has become an institution.

[Al-Ahmar] There is a serious attempt to stamp out corruption but it needs time. The high prices and poor living standards we are suffering are not a result of political errors. Of course political errors contribute to the difficulties but high prices are a global phenomenon. Exports are also low and imports are high.

[AL-SAFIR] Is it not wrong for khat [local shrub the leaves of which are chewed as a stimulant] to take precedence over coffee bean crops? Is it not wrong to allow khat chewing to squander the resources of the land and society? I have not heard one Yemeni official declare that khat is a pestilence.

[Al-Ahmar] It is one of the factors of inflation. It is our fate, you see.

[AL-SAFIR] Is it your fate to chew?

[Al-Ahmar] No, I mean the high prices are fate. We must confront our fate with all the reforms and economies we can muster, just like other nations who have experienced ordeals.

[AL-SAFIR] I have noticed that the role of the House of Representatives, of which you are speaker, is smaller than what it should be. Your personal role is bigger than the entire parliament. It is as if the House of Representatives has shrunk.

[Al-Ahmar] This is true to a degree but we will deal with the issue soon.

[AL-SAFIR] Why is it like that?

[Al-Ahmar] There are many factors. We are considering new regulations that will give a greater role to the House of Representatives. We are overseeing financial and administrative reform. Even members of parliament are feeling the bite of the currency devaluation. Our living conditions are very poor. I do not think the solution lies in entering into a new experiment with those whose treason has been demonstrated by experience. They betrayed the country and spoiled everything. We must not go near those who ruined the country after the union. In four years of union they ruined everything and then tried to secede.

[AL-SAFIR] What do you and the Muslim Brotherhood have in common?

[Al-Ahmar] The Islamic creed and national concepts. I am also a brother and a Muslim. Aren't we all brothers and Muslims?

[AL-SAFIR] But you and all the people have this in common?

[Al-Ahmar] Everyone was required to join a party when pluralism was declared. My feelings were with the Yemeni Reform Grouping [YRG].

[AL-SAFIR] Isn't the General People's Congress [GPC] closer to you?

[Al-Ahmar] There are no differences between the GPC and the YRG. The YRG members, including the Muslim Brotherhood ones, were in the GPC.

[AL-SAFIR] How many parties are there within the YRG?

[Al-Ahmar] One party.

[AL-SAFIR] It is called a grouping and not a party?

[Al-Ahmar] That's its appellation but it is one party.

[AL-SAFIR] Aren't there Muslim Brotherhood, Jihad, etc?

[Al-Ahmar] We are Muslim brothers.

[AL-SAFIR] When did you join the Muslim Brotherhood?

[Al-Ahmar] When we were young and before unity. We, like other Arab peoples, admired and were influenced by the ideas of Imam Hasan al-Banna; enlightened ideas and a straightforward policy. But we had no connections with a foreign country, either before or after unity. We are an independent Yemeni organization that does not receive instructions from abroad.

[AL-SAFIR] When did you become a Muslim Brotherhood member?

[Al-Ahmar] I, the Muslim Brotherhood, and the Islamic youth raise the Islamic slogan and advocate the promotion of virtue and suppression of vice. I have been with them since the days of Muhammad Mahmud al-Zubayri. We defended the revolution in one trench and fought against the red invasion. We were brought together by Islamic, pan-Arab, national, and humanitarian ideals.

[AL-SAFIR] Don't you feel that there is a contradiction between your position as a tribal chief and the state?

[Al-Ahmar] I have supported the state from the first day of the revolution. I am the thick club in the state's hands, regardless of whether I am in the government or not. I have defended the revolution and the Republic, have made sacrifices for it, and will continue to do so.

[AL-SAFIR] Don't you feel that your position will be affected if the state gets stronger?

[Al-Ahmar] No, because the tribal chiefs have always complemented the state, both in the past and at present. The state is built on the shoulders of the tribes.

[AL-SAFIR] Is there no contradiction?

[Al-Ahmar] There isn't. Had it not been for my feelings, concern for the country, and my sense of responsibility—the feelings of one who helped establish the state—I would have retired from politics and lived happily in Yemen and in Hashid. But my sense of responsibility and concern for the country make it incumbent on me to shoulder the responsibility.

[AL-SAFIR] Is it because President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih comes from the same tribe?

[Al-Ahmar] I have no propensity for narrow tribalism anymore. I regard myself as a Yemeni. Yemen is my tribe. I have been in authority since the days of al-Sallal, al-Iryani, al-Hamdi, al- Ghashmi, and 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih. I was in the authority even under the imam.

[AL-SAFIR] What is your personal evaluation of 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih?

[Al-Ahmar] Only God is perfect. A ruler has positive and negative points. But the long tenure has given 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih a lot of experience and he has become a safety valve. As you yourself said, individuals have exceptional importance in Arab society. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Views 'Designs' of Resolution 986

JN1704060495 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1820 GMT 16 Apr 95

["Radio dialogue" between Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf and correspondent Faysal al-Yasiri in Baghdad on 16 April—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [al-Yasiri] Two weeks ago, we met with Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf and discussed with him a draft resolution submitted by the United States and other countries; a draft resolution that became a UN resolution under No. 986 three days ago, last Friday. With respect to the background and objectives of this resolution, we are pleased to meet a second time with Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf. Welcome.

Your Excellency, the first question that perhaps comes to mind following our meeting two weeks ago is what changes have been introduced into the draft resolution that became Resolution 986?

[Al-Sahhaf] No major changes were introduced into the draft resolution as the Americans submitted it at the beginning. There were linguistic changes. They made changes in the language. They were careful that the change in language, or the improvement in the language, if one can view it as an improvement in the language, would not affect the essence that they sought to achieve from the beginning when they introduced this draft resolution more than two weeks ago.

As you remember, in our previous meeting, I explained the nature of the U.S. draft resolution. I said that it is similar to Resolution 706 and 712 in terms of content and objectives, resolutions which the UN Security Council adopted in [words indistinct] the two referent resolutions under the false slogan called humanitarian needs. They are two political resolutions seeking to achieve objectives that have nothing to do with anything humanitarian. They are after a political action against Iraq, by which Iraq would lose its sovereignty and independence and would place Iraq's fate in the hands of foreign quarters that work under UN cover.

The gist of these two resolutions is the same as the draft resolution, as I mentioned to you in my previous meeting. They claim they will allow Iraq to pump oil worth $1.6 billion. [Words indistinct] United Nations. The funds will be in the name of the United Nations when this oil is sold. [Words indistinct] Iraq would submit a request as if it begs and says: I want to purchase some food and medicines. They will approve or not. This must be referred to the Sanctions Committee. They will approve this. [Words indistinct] Iraq's money in an account in their name. The goods that are purchased consist of food and medicines and basic commodities needed by every person. They are the ones who decide where these goods will be purchased, as well as their type. They will control them, offload them in more than one place, inspect them and also carry out inspections in Iraq. They also will supervise their distribution, and distribute them themselves. At the same time, and before this operation that is burdened with many conditions is carried out, they will deduct huge sums. Under Resolutions 706 and 712, there is a $1.6 billion sum every six months. They deduct from it. After deductions, there remains $830 million from $1.6 million. [Words indistinct] Faysal, remember this figure. In 1991, [words indistinct] the entire sum, $1.6 billion. After the deductions, there remains $830 million.

From the beginning, Iraq rejected these two resolutions and exposed their designs.

The U.S. draft resolution adopted the same contents but in different language. The words used are not the same, but the content is the same. They circulated it as I mentioned....

[Al-Yasiri, interrupting] The implementation mechanism at the time which you had described as the spider's web [words indistinct].

[Al-Sahhaf] Let me explain it to you. But, before reaching the organizational and financial measures because these come [words indistinct] issues which are the basis and which are more serious [words indistinct]. The draft resolution, at the time, which when adopted [words indistinct] the amendments that were introduced to it which I will mention. I told you that these amendments are not basic ones. I will explain and emphasize that they are not basic ones.

This resolution had (?16) articles the first time they submitted the draft resolution. You remember that at the beginning we read the preamble [words indistinct]. It said: Recalling its previous relevant resolutions, and concerned by the serious nutritional and health situation of the Iraqi civilian population.... This is as if there is a civilian population and one that is not. The wicked do this intentionally. They want to say that the sons of the heroic Iraqi Army, the sons of the heroic Iraqi Armed Forces must not eat.

They also claim that if the situation seriously deteriorates and if they are convinced of a need for equitable distribution—meaning that the Iraqis do not equitably distribute it—of humanitarian relief to all segments of the population, and once again they speak of the Iraqi civilians, and acting under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter. Mr. al-Yasiri, you know what Chapter VII is all about. Chapter VII applies when world peace and security are threatened.

[Al-Yasiri] Exceptional measures are taken?

[Al-Sahhaf] For those who think of food and medicines for Iraq under a humanitarian slogan to view it as if the world is being threatened with nuclear bombs, this is ridiculous.

So this was the preamble, these few sentences. What amendments were introduced to it before it became a resolution? These amendments may seem at first sight positive, or, let me say this in colloquial terms you would not find anything wrong. It says: "Reaffirming the commitment of all member states to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Iraq...." This is nice. This means....

[Al-Yasiri, interrupting] I am waiting to raise a question on this point.

[Al-Sahhaf] But as soon as this sentence is over and you see what is written, then, as I have said, this sentence deteriorates and vanishes. The popular saying "I hear your words, I like them, I see your deeds, I get amazed." What is important is the fact that this was the first amendment, which, on the surface appears a natural statement, but what follows annuls it entirely .

[Al-Yasiri] You mean the actual implementation of the conditions?

[Al-Sahhaf] They then added a paragraph, which I will discuss later because it is very serious. They left that sentence in the preamble in a devious way. Anyone who is not aware of the facts and reads it might imagine that it somehow responds to the demands of some other Security Council member states which asked for that paragraph to be amended, and thus it was amended in that devious way. That paragraph in this new resolution, Resolution 986, which is worse than Resolution 706, says that the council is now convinced, "convinced of the need, as a temporary measure, to provide for the humanitarian needs of the Iraqi people until the fulfillment by Iraq of the relevant Security Council resolutions, including notably Resolution 661, allows the Council to take further action with regard to the prohibitions referred to in Resolution 661, in accordance with the provisions of those resolutions...." I have just read you the text. There are only two words that have been introduced haphazardly, while the remaining text seems coherent. The two words are "temporary measure." This is an attempt to throw dust in the eyes. Remove the words "temporary measure," and the remaining text will be coherent.

[Al-Yasiri] You mean this was a parenthetical statement?

[Al-Sahhaf] No. They left these two words to deceive the others, because some UN Security Council members have asked: Why do we need such a resolution? We have (?completed) Paragraph 22 and there is a French-Russian draft resolution concerning this issue. They said: Okay, you want us to reassure you, then we are convinced of the need for this resolution as a "temporary measure" but we have to say these two words to establish this link.

I will come back to explain this point once again because this is the most important serious point, and I will explain its meaning in terms of the UN Security Council resolutions, and not in terms of any analysis done outside the framework of the UN Security Council resolutions. You will see very clearly what are the real intentions and why they left this trick, these two words "temporary measure." These were, according to them, the modifications to the preamble.

In the operational paragraphs, there is no difference between what was a U.S. draft resolution and what turned into a U.S. resolution. How many words did, for example the Omani delegation add? They said the escrow account in which the Iraqi funds are deposited once they come under the name of the United Nations.... [pauses] The Omanis added a paragraph stipulating that independent and certified accountants must be appointed to audit this escrow account and to keep the Iraqi Government informed.

[Al-Yasiri] This means that we have nothing to do with the money we receive from this?

[Al-Sahhaf] No, no, no.

[Al-Yasiri] And the list we have just seen is a summary of the practical implementation; it is not the resolution. In other words, it is a summary of the issues mentioned by the minister now in terms of the interlinked measures, that is, we have nothing to do with the implementation.

[Al-Sahhaf] We have nothing to do with the implementation. If a person has $1 million, he needs to audit and review his accounts. Organizations and governments also have fiscal control offices and auditing bureaus. Although the UN budget is not much, however, it has auditors [words indistinct]. So, nothing was added, and in essence there was no change.

In another place, our Omani brothers have changed the term "northern Iraq" to "the northern part." There was no change in the subject, only a change in the language.

The draft resolution was 18 paragraphs and became 19. They added Paragraph 18: "Also affirms that nothing in this resolution should be construed as infringing on the sovereignty or territorial integrity of Iraq."

[Al-Yasiri] This means that the resolution should not infringe on Iraq's sovereignty.

[Al-Sahhaf] This is what is meant by the resolution. Is that right?

[Al-Yasiri] Yes.

[Al-Sahhaf] "Also affirms that nothing in this resolution should be construed as infringing on the sovereignty or territorial integrity of Iraq." I gave you the general description. Let me tell you this: Paragraph 18, which I have just read, is an interpretation of the active paragraphs which should comply with this. Also, you noticed that our Omani brothers kept the following sentence in the preamble: "Reaffirming the commitment of all member states to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Iraq." Then at the end, they say: "Also affirms that nothing in this resolution should be construed as infringing on the sovereignty or territorial integrity of Iraq."

[Al-Yasiri] We now want to know if the resolution encroaches on Iraq's sovereignty or safeguards it?

[Al-Sahhaf] Let us see if they mean what they say. [Words indistinct]

First, let us go to Paragraph 8: "(C) To complement, in view of the exceptional circumstances prevailing in the three governorates mentioned below, the distribution by the government of Iraq of goods imported under this resolution, in order to ensure an equitable distribution of humanitarian relief to all segments of the Iraqi population throughout the country, by providing between $130 million and $150 million every 90 days." Who is addressed here to spend this money? The UN secretary general. Where will this money go? To the UN Inter-Agency Humanitarian Program. In other words, he will allocate for this program between $130 million and 150 million every three months. "If less than $1 billion worth of petroleum is sold" in accordance with this resolution "during three months," the Security Council will sympathize with Iraq and say to the secretary general....

[Al-Yasiri, interrupting] Smaller amount, smaller amount.

[Al-Sahhaf] I am reminding you that Iraq's sovereignty and territorial integrity, which was reaffirmed by the resolution at the beginning and at the end, in the first and last pages, (?were exceptional). According to Chapter 7 of the UN Charter, they say, we will admit that the situation in northern Iraq is an exceptional situation. They say that this is a fait accompli which will be supported by the secretary general, quote humanitarian end of quote program, and the specialized agencies, such as the UNICEF [words indistinct].

Anyway, the one who recognizes your sovereignty must first respect this sovereignty and respect your territorial integrity.

[Al-Yasiri] This paragraph should have something, we say in English, separate....

[Al-Sahhaf, interrupting] We must say that this country is facing an exceptional situation. As long as we recognize this, we should adopt measures that fit this exceptional case. This is what happens to your sovereignty and territorial integrity. This is the first thing.

[Al-Yasiri] Mr. Minister: We have a list of the things which are contained in the resolution and which violate Iraq's sovereignty. I have here the first paragraph, the second paragraph. The other thing that refutes the claims that the resolution supports Iraq's sovereignty....

[Al-Sahhaf, interrupting] Sovereignty is expressed in achieving the will of the Iraqi people through themselves and through their institutions and leadership. The most prominent feature of sovereignty is that a certain people, with their institutions, authorities, and leadership, should make their own decisions and exercise their sovereignty over their resources and country and in their interest and to achieve prosperity and progress. The resolution has to do with oil and oil products. According to this resolution, from its beginning to its end, you don't have the power to manage your own resources. However, you are independent and we respect your sovereignty and territorial integrity. But you don't have the authority to do whatever you want with your oil. All you have to do is export your oil, and we will do the rest. When you need, submit a request and we will buy oil for you. This is the second point. Third, apart from oil, the resolution confiscates Iraq's will and free decision to choose the outlet from which it wants to export oil.

[Al-Yasiri] Indeed, because the resolution specified either the Karkuk line or....

[Al-Sahhaf, interrupting] Iraq must export its oil, actually the larger part of it, through the Turkish outlet. But the amounts are already limited. So the larger part means.... [pauses] Let us assume, for example, that it is (?enough). But we are talking about the principle, not the amount. The principle tells you: I have usurped your will. I will order where you can export your oil from. However, you are independent and we respect your sovereignty and territorial integrity. Fine. [Words indistinct] from you. [al-Yasiri laughs] Let us talk about the fourth point, interfering in Iraq's internal affairs and the odious invasion of the privacy of the Iraqi citizens under the pretext of monitoring the effective and equitable distribution of food supplies, which are really meager. I have told you that all this fuss is about an amount that is less than a quarter of the ration card. The Iraqi [words indistinct] his government and country. They tell you that in order for us to [words indistinct] 706, they should distribute. Therefore, it was expected that they will appoint about 24,000 gendarmes to distribute food for the Iraqis. This time they said we will be watching. The distribution is the responsibility of the Iraqi Government. However, we will monitor this process so as to make sure that the distribution is effective and equitable. I want to explain to you one way of doing this. For them to actively monitor and to know the results of this distribution, they [words indistinct] to overcome the effects of the results [words indistinct]. What do they mean by this? Usually, someone will examine your wrist. [Al-Yasiri laughs] This is the truth. This should not only inspire laughter but should also anger us.

[Al-Yasiri] Yes.

[Al-Sahhaf] Imagine an observer going to visit the tribes and governorates to write a report to the secretary general whether the distribution is effective and equitable, [words indistinct]. The wife or daughter of a leader of a tribe will not allow the observer to examine her. If the observer examines her and sees that she has put on some weight, then he will say that the program is good and that you have to demand lifting the blockade. But if he observes that she has lost some weight, then he will say that there is something wrong with the distribution system and that you should check this because the Iraqi Government has definitely not been distributing supplies equitably. Despite this, we respect your sovereignty and national unity. Right?

[Al-Yasiri] Yes, the resolution begins and ends with this.

[Al-Sahhaf] We come to the issue of handling money. This resolution, in reality, deprives Iraq of its natural right as an independent and sovereign state to handle its own money to serve the interests of the Iraqi people and to provide them with basic necessities in accordance with the international law and bases which regulate trade between countries.

For your information, according to this resolution, the UN secretary general replaces the Central Bank governor.

[Al-Yasiri] He sells and receives money for what he sells.

[Al-Sahhaf] The UN secretary general becomes the Central Bank governor. In other words, [Central Bank Governor] Dr. 'Isam Huwaysh is replaced by the UN secretary general.

The money is paid into an escrow account in the name of the United Nations. The UN secretary general is authorized to spend the money in the process of selling and buying; that is, when oil is sold and when goods are bought with all this money. They say: You are a sovereign state and we respect your territorial integrity.

I deliberately reiterate this so that those who do not know, Mr. Faysal, will know.

[Al-Yasiri, interrupting] If you will allow me to interrupt you your excellency. In fact, some people say that the resolution respects Iraq's sovereignty. Then, it is really very important to clarify this issue.

[Al-Sahhaf] I gave you examples regarding essential issues and [word indistinct] issues. Then, where is all this....

[Al-Yasiri, interrupting] Respect for sovereignty?

[Al-Sahhaf] Respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity? They have encroached on Iraq's territorial integrity with their game which deals with northern Iraq. This also means sovereignty in a deep sense. [words indistinct] in this meaning to make it appear that they made amendments. In the end, when anyone—I do not want to say any fair party—who has a mind, sees how the details and their real meaning are being implemented, then no meaning will be left for sovereignty, independence, and Iraq's territorial integrity. These are two exposed lies they kept in the resolution to throw dust in the eyes. The essence was not changed at all.

[Al-Yasiri] Your Excellency. Perhaps we should move on to the question of the implementation and timing of this resolution. Why is it issued now? What are the basic and political dangers that lie behind issuing this resolution at this particular time?

[Al-Sahhaf] Mr. Faysal, in my opinion, the timing was just as important as the resolution itself. In the U.S. game they played, timing is very important, just as much as the resolution itself. We all know that when Resolution 706 was issued in 1991, people sympathized with Iraq and said that if the Americans and British had a real desire to stop ignoring this crime, which is represented by the blockade, then it should take another course. In 1995, it became so unclear [words indistinct]... enough is enough because Iraq implemented, in fact was forced to implement, more than what was stipulated in the Security Council resolutions, particularly Resolution 687. This pressure before this reality is no longer an easy issue to merely pay [words indistinct]

The main preoccupation, as I explained to you in a previous interview, is to use blackmail, pressure, threats, and all wicked means used by the Americans and the British to mobilize an atmosphere inside the Security Council with which to defuse the pressure exerted on the Security Council and to distract and silence members of the Security Council whose number has increased [words indistinct]. In fact, the first objective of this resolution was to deceive world public opinion and Arab public opinion and get rid of the increasing pressure on them which demands an end to the suffering of the Iraqi people and lifting the embargo. It is a process of circumventing the atmosphere which was created (?in Iraq's favor).

The second point: After defusing this situation, they will prepare a formula that will help them maintain the sanctions. If Iraq agrees on this resolution the siege will continue for an unlimited period of time, because there will be no pressure on them. The others, who care about their interests, would say that since Iraq is complying with the Security Council resolutions, the Security Council should also fulfill its obligations. We know that Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687 is sequential. In others words, if you carry out this thing I will carry out this in return. They hope that, through this resolution, they will defuse the situation. They will say that the world will be aware of the resolution in general, not in details, and that the Iraqis will become aware that oil can be sold [words indistinct]. This will freeze the implementation of Paragraph 22. If we remain silent and others remain silent the situation will continue. However, as nobody is silent, particularly Iraq, they will try to maintain the situation as long as they can. [Words indistinct] they will fail in this plan.

The other thing is that this resolution will completely obstruct the implementation of Paragraph 22. I can say without any hesitation that one of the main political objectives of this resolution is to obstruct the implementation of Paragraph 22.

[Al-Yasiri] How?

[Al-Sahhaf] First, they will say that there are still unfinished things [words indistinct]. They will then say: There is no need to hurry, because there is a resolution, taken in accordance with Chapter 7, which allows Iraq to sell oil and to receive $2 billion every six months and $4 billion every year. Why do you seek to undermine the influence of the Security Council and why are you looking after your own interests with Iraq? We believe that security, peace, and stability require [words indistinct] the U.S. way of blackmailing the world and countries. This is if, God forbid, Iraq makes a mistake [words indistinct].

The other way, as you know Mr. Faysal, this resolution will be applied every 90 days and every 180 days. The secretary general will present a report every 90 days and at the end of 180 days. This means that this practice will be carried out under the umbrella of the Security Council with the knowledge of the world in a country—Iraq—which God forbid, accepted it. This is only an assumption. They will then portray the situation in the media as being good. [Words indistinct] The practice will then be repeated. [Words indistinct] he will then come and say: I object to this. We have an experiment which proved to be successful. I want to implement Paragraph 22 in accordance with the content of this experiment. In other words, when implementing Paragraph 22 this resolution will be considered a precedent if Iraq agrees on it. But, since Iraq has exposed them and will not agree on it [words indistinct].

So, their political objective is to implement the resolution and maintain the sanctions, and then, when they come to implement Paragraph 22, they will say: We have a successful experiment. We think that in order to maintain peace and stability [words indistinct]. In order for us to guarantee that Iraq will not cause any problems, we will apply this successful experiment on Paragraph 22.

[Al-Yasiri] In this case, Paragraph 22 will be implemented in the same way in terms of selling oil and allocating funds.

[Al-Sahhaf] I want now to go back to the first paragraph in the preamble of the resolution to explain to you further how it violates Iraq's sovereignty and has political objectives. We have spoken at length about Paragraph 22. Those who drafted this resolution, the Americans and the British, [words indistinct] Oman, thinking that it can introduce amendments because it sympathizes with Iraq [words indistinct]. Let me read the introductory paragraph: Convinced of the need, as a temporary measure, to provide for the humanitarian needs of the Iraqi people until the fulfillment by Iraq of the relevant Security Council resolutions, including notably Resolution 687 of 3 April 1991, allows the Council to take further action with regard to the prohibition referred to in Resolution 661 of 6 August 1990, in accordance with the provisions of these resolutions. They only added to this paragraph the temporary measure thing. This is a trick. This is because the drift of the resolution does not have anything to do with it. It has to do with how the blockade will be lifted. This temporary measure [words indistinct]. They want to tell us: We do not have the intentions which you think we have. They say this program requires this humanitarian resolution as a temporary measure. The temporary measure which several nations want is that it should be said that this resolution ends once the Security Council discusses the implementation of Paragraph 22. In this case, the measure will really be temporary because it has a deadline, once the Security Council begins to discuss Paragraph 22. This is because the implementation of Paragraph 22 is linked to specific and clear conditions. But this resolution says: You go ahead and implement Paragraphs 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, and 13 of Section C of Resolution 687, which deal with chemical weapons, missiles, Iraq's biological research program, and the nuclear program. When you're done with these, we will monitor the plants that used to work in these fields. Afterwards, the oil embargo will be lifted. Is this clear? So this is a formula of a contract [words indistinct] they will not adhere to the legal implementation of Resolution 687, especially the legal interpretation of Paragraph 22 of this resolution [words indistinct] until Iraq implements the relevant Security Council resolutions, notably Resolution 687. There is no mention of Paragraph 22. After that, the Council will consider what action it will take about the measures of the embargo, in accordance with the provisions of these resolutions, and not with Paragraph 22.

For six and a half years now, a conflict has been going on—sometimes in public and sometimes in secret—between two currents. The U.S current, on the one hand, which says: I reject the legal interpretation of Security Council Resolution 687. The Americans insist on what they call the political interpretation of the Security Council resolutions. The other—led by Iraq—says this is not possible. The resolutions are clear, and Resolution 687 in particular does now allow for any interpretation, unless you impose your own reading on it. Paragraph 22 of this resolution is a contractual formula: Iraq fulfills its obligations and in return the Security Council fulfills its obligations. [Words indistinct] their objective is different from the Security Council resolutions. [Words indistinct] the American political interpretation of the resolutions. So how can you say this is a temporary measure?

[Al-Yasiri] Also, Mr. Minister, there is a sentence that says the relevant resolutions, can this not include even resolutions that will be issued in the future, since in this paragraph the resolutions are not named?

[Al-Sahhaf] This is possible. Even this new resolution itself is now relevant.

[Al-Yasiri] So other resolutions could also be issued....

[Al-Sahhaf, interrupting] But, Mr. Faysal, please, I am talking here about the principle. When someone says that this paragraph is clear, and another says no, I want to add everything and I want to add these new conditions to Paragraph 22, then there is a big difference between the two things. This is a very serious and malicious political formula. I have explained to you how much this resolution violates Iraq's sovereignty and what its objectives are.

[Al-Yasiri] Mr. Minister, you have also spoken about the link between this issue and Resolutions 706 and 712. Before we entered the studio and began our discussion, you told me that there is a background to these resolutions and other matters that are probably not known. Can you explain these things since they all seem to be interrelated?

[Al-Sahhaf] I told you, Mr. Faysal, that certain parts have been concealed, I mean information and facts which relate to the resolution. The new resolution is similar to the other resolutions. When they issued Resolution 706, they created a clamor, if you remember. They said: We have offered a humanitarian solution to Iraq but its government [words indistinct]. These are the same claims, practices, and clownish moves of the Americans and some of their followers and agents. They think that they can fool everybody in the world. [Words indistinct] let us think from another angle [words indistinct] this resolution any use. On 20 November 1991, the assistant secretary general of the United Nations arrived in Baghdad. The UN Secretary General then was Perez de Cuellar. His assistant was from Ghana. [Words indistinct] a few years before 1991. We welcomed him. He said: I want to talk to you to find a way out of the crisis, and excuse me for saying this, this trash [preceding word in English] of a resolution in which they have embroiled us, referring to Resolution 706. A short while ago, I told you: Let us look at this resolution, may be we can, from a certain angle, find something positive about it. However, the resolution, from whatever angle you look at it, is a malicious resolution. So the assistant secretary general said: I am talking about the problem this resolution [word indistinct]. I asked him: How did you find that out? He said: First, because of an ignorant person who knows nothing about the oil industry. The United Nations said that it had to hire oil experts to deal with this issue. I am revealing this information for the first time, because it is the time to reveal it, since this new resolution has highlighted this. I promised you for this reason. We have many documents and minutes of meetings. I want only to cite some points which show the similar nature [of Resolution 986 and the previous resolutions] and what happened in the dark regarding Resolution 706. The people who watch us and listen to us should not think that Iraq simply and easily says no. There are real reasons for this. In addition, the same people who have been hatching these plots and drafting these aggressive resolutions against Iraq have provided evidence of this through their own words.

The assistant UN secretary general for political affairs said that those who issued the resolution do not understand anything about the issue of oil and [word indistinct]. He noted that the United Nations really wants to know from Iraq how [words indistinct] He said: We know your stand on Resolutions 706 and 712 upfront. [Words indistinct] We only need to reach a formula that is acceptable to Iraq and to the UN General Secretariat so that Perez de Cuellar can go and talk about this resolution. He said that there are Security Council members who really want to get rid of the predicament which resulted from Resolution 706. However, there are two members who reject any logical talk; namely, the Americans and the British. He said: We are willing and need to hear from you because it was proven that was meant [words indistinct].

We once again explained to him Iraq's stand. We did not add anything new. However, we stressed our stand in detail. He said: Actually, I want to form a committee of Iraqi and UN experts to discuss the formula for....

[Al-Yasiri, interrupting] For an alternative resolution?

[Al-Sahhaf] For an alternative situation. We formed a committee and we agreed to hold serious discussions. These serious discussions lasted for a month. I remember that the assistant UN secretary general for political affairs came in November 1991.

After detailed discussions with him and after he himself told us about the poison contained in Resolutions 706 and 712, we agreed to hold our first session in January [1992] in Vienna. Experts and a UN delegation, headed by the assistant UN secretary general, went to Vienna. During the first round of talks, the Iraqi delegation was asked: How do you calculate the oil production cost? How do you want to use the money obtained from selling oil products for compensation?. The Iraqi delegation told them the amount was very little. He said: Why do you claim that the Security Council and the UN secretary general are interfering to define from which port Iraq exports its oil? I do not want to tell the whole story. However, he said something to the effect that [words indistinct] for Iraq.

In sum, the UN General Secretariat delegation said [words indistinct] that the United Nations has nothing to do with where Iraq exports its oil from. [words indistinct] the cost should increase. The delegation said: Why should we have anything to do with Iraq's money. The United Nations has many problems of its own. How can the United Nations handle these billions? How did we fall into this predicament? How could we encroach on the banking system of an independent country? We would like to consult with you on the Iraqis' arrangements and how they managed to reduce all interference and the policy of interfering [words indistinct].

Hence, the impudence of Resolution 706 and 712 and of the UN secretary general's plan which was adopted in Resolution 712 [words indistinct] They said: We are pleased. (Delay?) the results of this round. We will return and tell you how to resume the discussion of this resolution. The UN delegation returned to....

[Al-Yasiri, interrupting] New York.

[Al-Sahhaf] New York. [Words indistinct] was transferred from his post. They sent us a message in which they retreated on everything they agreed on, and on the desired amendment, during the negotiations we held. They canceled all talks beginning with the trash and ending with [words indistinct] The message says: No. [words indistinct] Go back, go back, go back. After a while they said they wanted to resume the talks.

[Al-Sahhaf] Then they dispatched [name indistinct], assistant secretary general for political affairs, who is from Italy. In the first session, Iraq, which was represented by Dr. 'Abd-al-Amir al-Anbari, Riyad al-Qaysi, and Iraqi experts, rejected [words indistinct].

[Al-Yasiri] In this way, the discussion on Resolutions 706 and 712 stopped at that time?

[Al-Sahhaf] No, Mr. Faysal, the assistant secretary general then came and a second round of talks was held.

[Al-Yasiri] Also, in Geneva.

[Al-Sahhaf] Yes. [Words indistinct] the UN General Secretariat by the Americans and British was clear on the delegation led by (Pecot). Talks were held, and the stand of the delegation of the UN General Secretariat began to change and they admitted that [words indistinct] of the Iraqi side is correct. Progress was made in another round. [Words indistinct] they contacted us and said they wanted to discuss [words indistinct] to find a way out from the impasse.

Talks were then held in New York. The Iraqi side was led by (?Dr. Riyad al-Qaysi), and the UN General Secretariat delegation was led by [name indistinct], the legal adviser of the Security Council, who was a candidate for the International Court of Justice, so this new assignment was not in his favor. He was also aware of the fate of the two who preceded him. He said: [Words indistinct] the important people in the United Nations are aware of the meaning of Resolution (?706). They were seeking a way out from the impasse imposed by the Security Council on the United Nations. I really mean what the Americans imposed on the United Nations. Their attempts were doomed to failure because the same [word indistinct] was standing in their way. [Words indistinct] I am stating these facts for the firs time. They are kept in documents and minutes: How did the UN delegations speak about the crises which the Americans have created for the international organization.

[Al-Yasiri] The same thing happened with Resolution 986.

[Al-Sahhaf] Except for some differences in the language, this resolution is identical to Resolutions 706 and 712. Therefore, the changes in the language are similar to the changes which [names indistinct] wanted to make. There were some people and quarters in the Security Council who wanted to make real amendments. However, when work was done to make real amendments they aborted these attempts as they did with [name indistinct]. The result was that this resolution was similar to Resolution 706.

[Al-Yasiri] This is because these resolutions have clear political objectives. Mr. Minister: Let us go back to the American Resolution 986 and discuss two points, if you do not mind. The first deals with the economic and financial conditions in this resolution; and the second, the reality of the $1 billion? I feel there is a certain trick here? Would you tell us about the economic, financial, organizational, and procedural conditions and restrictions in the resolution?

[Al-Sahhaf] Mr. Faysal, the following is a summary of the resolution: They ask Iraq to pump a worth of $1 billion—$1000,000,000—oil every three months. This amount will be deposited in an account. They will then ask Iraq to accept the following conditions: We will tell you from where to pump oil. You will pump from the Turkish port. [Words indistinct] Thus, we will deprive you of your will. Through Turkey....

[Al-Yasiri, interrupting] There is a kind of hegemony on it.

[Al-Sahhaf] Thus, it can be undermined by an American game at any moment.

Accordingly, you pump oil and we tell you where from. When oil is shipped in tankers, it will be sold according to UN approval. You can certainly sign a contract, but the United Nations will send it to us for approval.

[Al-Yasiri] Approval of price, quantity, buyer.

[Al-Sahhaf] All. Price, quantity, buyer, and quality of oil. They must say yes or no to all these. The country or quarter that buys the oil will pay Iraq's money to the United Nations. [Words indistinct] It will be deposited in an escrow account in the name of the United Nations. Only the UN secretary general is authorized to spend from this account, or let us say under his supervision because he writes the (?council) reports. Iraq will apply for food and medicine and they have to approve or reject your application. This food or medicine will be bought for you. It will be examined and scrutinized and followed up because you are a suspect under this humanitarian resolution. You are a suspect [words indistinct]. When these materials arrive, they monitor their distribution. One of the methods of their monitoring—and I do not fabricate lies against anyone.... [pauses] They frankly told us: We want to use the method of examining people's bodies to see how much weight they gain, a method called impact monitoring [preceding two words in English]. This is, of course, one of the methods used in some programs as in Rwanda, for example, or a place stricken by famine or severe epidemic. There are certain cases which require prolonged treatment and nutrition because those afflicted are bedridden due to hunger. This should not be done in haste. You cannot apply such medical examination methods to an entire people by confiscating their money and then asking to examine this or that man or woman, who will be living on a quarter of what is provided by the ration card, and find out whether they are healthy or not. These are methods [words indistinct] What I told you is more important than all this. The secretary general writes a report, the Sanctions Committee makes recommendations, and observers monitor. They monitor the places from which oil is exported. They all have approval or disapproval jurisdictions. Consequently, let us calculate things on the basis of a billion.

[Al-Yasiri] Right. The next question is how the billion will end up?

[Al-Sahhaf] Let us suppose that under all these restrictions and shackling conditions, a $1 billion worth of oil is sold. Some 300 million will go to reparations.

[Al-Yasiri] The 300, Mr. Minister, means the 30 percent.

[Al-Sahhaf] Yes, 30 percent.

[Al-Yasiri] Even so, allow me to ask: We know that according to the resolution on reparations, the maximum of such reparations was fixed at 30 percent. If this billion is earmarked for humanitarian needs, why is the maximum then deducted?

[Al-Sahhaf] The UN Security Council resolutions [words indistinct] said the highest ceiling of reparations from Iraq should not exceed 30 percent. Paragraph 19 of Resolution 687 says when reparations are calculated, all the needs of the Iraqi people, the Iraqi economy, and Iraq's servicing and payment of its debts should be taken into consideration. It is as straight as a ruler. You have to scientifically study Iraq's economic needs and the needs of the Iraqi people as well as the Iraqi Government's needs to service and honor its debts. We have calculated this, Faysal. The ESCWA [Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia], which was headquartered in Baghdad before moving to Lebanon, published a report saying Iraq should not be demanded to pay anything for at least five years. Therefore, there are basic rules according to which things are calculated. They directly fix 30 percent in this resolution.

[Al-Yasiri] If the resolution is humanitarian, it should take the minimum level, or at least not take....

[Al-Sahhaf, interrupting] It should. But it first takes the maximum level because [words indistinct] but in the future, implementing Paragraph 22. They should ask for deductions but without all these these conditions and restrictions. We got 30 percent [word indistinct].

[Al-Yasiri] We go back to the deductions of these billions.

[Al-Sahhaf] So we have here 3 million. The Special Commission did not say [words indistinct]. The first time, [words indistinct].

[Al-Yasiri] [Words indistinct].

[Al-Sahhaf] I will tell you for whom the deductions are and then I will come to the results. So, a sum will be deducted for the operations of the Special Commission. A sum of 10 million every three months for the secretary general. So they take Iraq's money twice. They said, eventually, 130-150 [words indistinct] for the three governorates but in their own way, which they consider as excluded from the rest of Iraq. So 5 remain from the original 1 billion.

[Al-Yasiri] This is the maximum. Because this is a certain percentage....

[Al-Sahhaf, interrupting] Let us add the 130 or 150 [words indistinct]...

[Al-Yasiri, interrupting] Mr. Minister: We can raise many questions in this context. What is the alternative? What is the resolution that should be issued. We met with your excellency two week ago and spoke in this studio. There were rumors that the resolution could be somewhat fair. What is the alternative? What is the resolution that should be issued?

[Al-Sahhaf] Well, Mr. Faysal, a statement was issued following the joint meeting of the Revolution Command Council and the Iraq Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party. Yesterday also, a statement was issued by the Cabinet. Our stand toward this malicious resolution is very clear. This resolution cannot be accepted and must be confronted. What to do then, what is the alternative? In fact, according to the logic that made the resolution, they should now unfreeze the Iraqi assets if there is a humanitarian action framework. Iraq has more than $4 billion frozen in their banks. The money is in American, British, French, and Italian banks and in and other nations.

[Al-Yasiri] Even Arab countries.

[Al-Sahhaf] Yes, even Arab countries, in Bahrain. If there is a humanitarian approach, then they should [words indistinct] all these restrictions through which they want to rob Iraq of its sovereignty and independence. All these restrictions [words indistinct]. Iraq can buy food and medicine and other needs of all Iraqis, and this will cost 4 billions. During this, we must have Paragraph 22 implemented, if they were really humanitarian. We should concentrate on implementing Paragraph 22. Iraq has fulfilled all its obligations. The misleading fabrications of the Americans, about the biological program....

[Al-Yasiri, interrupting] They always talk about things....

[Al-Sahhaf, interrupting] These are exposed political attempts. Iraq has really implemented all the substantial demands. Therefore, Paragraph 22 should be implemented. This is a prelude to the lifting of the unfair blockade against the Iraqi people, and not this vile and malicious resolution that shackles Iraq now and in the future. This resolution seeks to rob Iraq of its sovereignty and will and achieve their real objectives. They want to deprive Iraq of its rights by imposing all these restrictions, for example, on ports, export, import, banks, etc. Each paragraph prejudices Iraq's rights. It is possible [words indistinct], in addition to the humiliation and disgrace of this resolution.

[Al-Yasiri] This means that they can find something wrong somewhere to use as an excuse?

[Al-Sahhaf] Never. There is nothing wrong, but they make it up.

[Al-Yasiri] They fabricate a fault and use it as a pretext to abort even this resolution with all its restrictions and faults. Mr. Minister: Do you think that talks will continue....

[Al-Sahhaf, interrupting] Regarding the resolution?

[Al-Yasiri] No, not on the resolution. Will the talks continue, until when? People's patience has a limit.

[Al-Sahhaf] Mr. Faysal, work continues with the members of the Security Council. This should be clear. We will not deviate. We will not deviate, the Americans—with all their malice—will not be able to force Iraq, and those who sympathize with it, to deviate from the basic and primary demand, which is the implementation of Paragraph 22, because, according to the Security Council resolutions, the implementation of Paragraph 22 is the only way to fully lift the siege. This is the first stage of lifting the siege as a whole. After all what I have said, this is a resolution that is against the Iraqi people, against the serious efforts made to lift the siege. This is considered procrastination. It is an attempt to weaken the internal front. [words indistinct]

[Al-Yasiri] [Question on Western media indistinct]

[Al-Sahhaf] [Words indistinct] No matter how influential their media are they cannot deceive the Iraqis. This is the nature of the resolution. Despite the attempt to divert the attention of the Security Council, work and cooperation with all members of the Security Council and stands will continue to develop to implement Paragraph 22. Determination should continue and efforts must be doubled on all levels. This attempt was made to [words indistinct]

[Al-Yasiri] Thus, we have reviewed the background of the American resolution [words indistinct] the unjust and harmful resolution, as the foreign minister revealed in his review, over the past hour. We reviewed the background and the political objectives which the Americans try to entrench in the resolutions, in an attempt to maintain the unjust siege on our people and to prevent the Security Council from adopting the resolution, which we have a right to demand now, that is, the implementation of Paragraph 22. We thank Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf for this interview.

People, Media Continue To Denounce Resolution

Demonstrations Organized

JN1704160595 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0900 GMT 17 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Baghdad, 17 Apr (INA)—Denunciations of the new U.S. Resolution No. 986 concerning the sanctions continue all over the country. Large scale demonstrations were organized in Baghdad and other governorates.

The Iraqi citizens stressed that the U.S. resolution crowns the policy of hegemony pursued by Clinton's administration against the peoples to achieve evil and premeditated objectives. In these demonstrations, the citizens stressed that the embargo against Iraq can be lifted when the United Nations abides by its commitments as stipulated in Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687.

National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih, who participated in a mass rally yesterday, reaffirmed that the Iraqi people want to see an end to all manifestations of the embargo and its unfair suppressive measures. [passage omitted]

In their editorials, the Iraqi newspapers continued to denounce and condemn the new U.S. Resolution No. 986. In that regard, AL-QADISIYAH newspaper, which specializes in military affairs, said the U.S. tyrants and their agents are ignoring the fact which President Saddam Husayn reaffirmed during the Cabinet's 15th session, when his excellency said that Iraqi sovereignty was attained through stages of struggle and jihad. He said that the Iraqis offered rivers of blood to preserve that sovereignty and their national unity and all energies must be pooled to preserve them in all fields.

The paper adds that our heroic people revive the same will and remember the dear sacrifices offered by the Iraqis while confronting the unfair U.S. resolution, which seeks to belittle these sacrifices.

In an editorial by its chief editor, AL-JUMHURIYAH says that the Iraqi citizens know very well that the United States have never considered lifting the embargo against Iraq, but, on the contrary, sought to tighten it to achieve its major objective, which it failed to achieve through the military aggression. The United States, the paper says, resorted to mass annihilation of citizens through the use of the embargo and the weapon of starvation to divide Iraq and turn it into a new Rwanda.

The paper adds: Therefore, President Saddam Husayn stressed time and again that the embargo will not be lifted through a U.S. resolution, but will break under the Iraqis' steadfastness, sacrifices, and creative actions, which will create Iraqi, regional, and international conditions which, in turn, will produce the factors that will erode the embargo and force the United States to retreat from its position.

The paper adds: The growing U.S. economic and political weakness have forced it to adopt this resolution to contain and counter the growing positive trends in the world which support Iraq.

Arab unions and organizations based in Baghdad denounced the U.S. Resolution No. 986 which seeks to prolong the embargo imposed on the Iraqi people and to encroach on their sovereignty and national unity. [passage omitted]

Speaker Assails Threat to Sovereignty

JN1704193995 Baghdad INA in English 1310 GMT 17 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, April 17 (INA)—Speaker of the National Assembly Sa'di Mahdi Salih has confirmed that the fresh U.S. Resolution No. 986 adopted under cover of the Security Council prejudices Iraq's sovereignty and independence.

In a statement exclusive to AL-JUMHURIYAH daily on Monday, Mr. Salih said this resolution posed a serious threat to Iraq's territorial integrity and was considered as a blatant intervention in its internal affairs.

This resolution is worst and most dangerous as compared with Security Council Resolutions 706 and 712 for it included items directly violating Iraq's sovereignty, Mr. Salih said, adding that it delays the lifting of the anti-Iraq embargo and gives the wicked inside the Security Council the pretext to impede dealing with Para. 22 of Resolution 687.

The speaker stressed that the U.S-framed resolution consolidated the secession in the north of the country, and this is a promotion of the secessionist trend in the north.

Assembly To Debate Scope of Ruling

JN1704194295 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1702 GMT 17 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 17 Apr (INA)—National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih has announced that the assembly has formed several committees to discuss U.S. Resolution No. 986.

In a statement to the newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH published here today, Salih added that these committees will hold continuous meetings that will last seven to 10 days to examine the scope of this resolution. He indicated that the assembly will host several state officials for this purpose.

The National Assembly speaker went on to say that the aforementioned committees will present the outcome of their work to a plenary session of the National Assembly so that the latter may determine its view on the aforesaid resolution.

NPPF Calls Resolution 'Evil'

JN1804082495 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0707 GMT 18 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 18 Apr (INA)—The National Progressive and Patriotic Front [NPPF] has stressed its categorical rejection of the U.S. Resolution 986 which undermines Iraq's sovereignty and threatens its security and national unity.

Chairing an extraordinary NPPF meeting, NPPF Secretary General 'Abd-al-Ghani 'Abd-al-Ghafur said that the evil U.S. Resolution 986 is an exposed maneuver carried out by the United States after it has realized the inevitability of implementing Paragraph 22 of UN Security Council Resolution No. 687 as a result of Iraq's fulfillment of all its obligations in this regard.

He added: This resolution is a defeated attempt to prolong the blockade and to encroach on Iraq's sovereignty, national unity, independence, and the steadfastness of its patient and mujahid people who are rallying round struggler President Saddam Husayn.

'Abd-al-Ghani 'Abd-al-Ghafur said: While categorically rejecting U.S. Resolution 986, the NPPF parties express appreciation for the stands of the states which showed understanding, supported Iraq, and called for the implementation of Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687.

The NPPF appealed to these states to continue this legal and moral action to lift the unjust blockade clamped on Iraq and ending its people's suffering.

During its extraordinary meeting, the NPPF called on the political parties and forces in the Arab homeland and the world to intensify their efforts to expose U.S. Resolution 986 and the United States' aggressive intentions against Iraq and its patient and mujahid people.

Attending the meeting were Ahmad Muhammad Sa'id al-Atrushi, Kurdistan Democratic Party secretary, Ibrahim Tahir Salam, deputy secretary of the Kurdistan Revolutionary Party, and members of the NPPF General Secretariat.

Daily Rejects 'Inhuman' U.S. Action

JN1804094395 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0639 GMT 18 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 18 Apr (INA)—An Iraqi newspaper has stressed that when the United States drafted its Resolution No. 986 against Iraq and its people's interests, it acted like someone poisoning the honey. This is because this resolution deals with the Iraqis as if they were a people of hungry refugees.

In an article today, the newspaper AL-'IRAQ adds: The way the accursed Resolution 986 was written reveals the extent of U.S. arrogance and haughtiness, and shows how low White House officials have sunk by their empty thinking and idiotic imperialist mentality.

The paper says: If we have to give a reasonable definition to Resolution 986, we say that it is a new conspiracy and another link in the chain of attacking Iraq in the heart and of undermining its regional, Arab, and national role and status by canceling its right to honorable living, despite the fact that it has responded positively to the UN Security Council resolutions.

The paper adds: Any U.S. attempt to attenuate the legitimate and urgent Iraqi demand of lifting the oil embargo in accordance with Paragraph 22 will confirm the premeditated evil U.S. intentions to maintain the blockade for a longer period of time because the United States will then be satisfied with Resolution 986 which allows the stealing of our people's resources in broad daylight.

AL-'IRAQ stresses that the United States is continuing its efforts through all immoral and inhuman means on all political and diplomatic levels to destroy the Iraqi individual, demoralize him, tamper with his destiny, and to deprive him of the right to honorable living.

Concluding, the paper says: The Iraqis have sworn and pledged to their leader President Saddam Husayn to cross to the other bank of prosperity and decisive victory regardless of how big the U.S. challenges are and no matter how versatile the aggressive U.S. resolutions may be, the last of which was the evil Resolution No. 986.

Kurdish Group Reports Explosions Around Irbil

LD1704112795 Tehran IRNA in English 1041 GMT 17 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] April 17, IRNA—The Patriotic Union Kurdistan of Iraq [PUK] said that a series of sporadic bomb explosions in Irbil and Ainkaveh over the past 24 hours has left a number of people killed or wounded.

Sources close to the PUK said on Monday that two persons were killed and several others wounded when armed passengers of motor car threw a hand bomb at Irbil's central marketplace.

The same sources added that 3 policemen and 2 civilians were severly wounded in two bomb explosions in the police station and a crowded quarter of Ainkaveh, 20 km northwestern Irbil.

According to the sources, the PUK held its rival group, the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) responsible for the explosions. The accusation has been rejcted by the KDP.

The two major rival parties have agreed to observe a week-long truce in Iraqi Kurdistan.

No reports have been received yet on violation of the ceasefire by either of the parties.

Meanwhile, the KDP radio on Monday accused the PUK of expelling people loyal to the Kurdistan Democratic Party from the region controlled by PUK forces in Irbail and Sulaimaniya.

The radio also said that hundreds of KDP supporters have fled their homes under pressure of the rival group and migrated to northern parts Kurdistan that are under control of KDP.

Turkish Troops Said To Pull Out of Northeast

NC1704151495 Paris AFP in English 1426 GMT 17 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Diyanah, Iraq, April 17 (AFP)—Up to 10,000 Turkish troops have pulled out of the remote Chuarkuk area of northeastern Iraq on foot or by helicopter, Iraqi Kurds living in the region told AFP Monday.

"I was in the Chuarkuk area on Sunday and not a single Turkish soldier remained there. All the positions on the mountains and hills and all the light artillery have disappeared," said Mahmud Muhammad, a driver from the area.

Other Kurdish villagers from the area confirmed that the Turkish soldiers had gone back to Turkey. They said seven helicopters ferried troops from the region for three days in a continuous operation.

Turkey poured some 35,000 troops into northern Iraq on March 20 in a bid to destroy bases used by the rebel Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) [Workers Party of Kurdistan] for cross-border raids.

"Hundreds of them crossed the Gerdian border river by raft and walked towards the Turkish mountains. The others were taken back by helicopter," said Nahidah Chaladan, from Berazgir village which lies by the river.

'Umar Hasan, a driver from Diyanah 100 kilometres (62 miles) north of the main northern Iraqi town of Irbil, said the Turks had blown up three bridges across three different rivers. Two of them had been built by the Iraqi army and one by the Iranians during the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war.

Mahmud Muhammad said more than 40 villages north of the destroyed bridges were lying in ruins and up to 3,000 Kurdish families did not dare to return, fearing Turkish attacks.

"Now we could not (return) even if we wanted to because since the Turks blew up (the bridges) they cut the only transport link."

The mountainous Chuarkuk region lies some 50 kilometres (30 miles) north of the small town of Diyanah and is bordered by Turkey to the northwest and Iran to the northeast.

The remote area was a PKK stronghold, but villagers said the Turkish troops had only succeeded in seizing some food stocks.

Mahmud Muhammad said he was convinced the Kurdish villagers would now give more support to the PKK, "because the Turkish troops looted their homes and arrested their people."

In the face of calls from the West for a complete and immediate withdrawal from northern Iraq, Turkey withdrew 3,000 soldiers some 10 days ago.

Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller said Sunday Turkish forces "will be withdrawn from Iraq as soon as they have completed their mission," but she did not specify a date.

Quoted by Turkish media, she added that if necessary "the Turkish army could re-enter Iraqi territory".

Turkish Foreign Minister Erdal Inonu said Ankara would pull its troops out in the "immediate future."

Peres Urges Changing Peace Procedures With Syria

TA1804100495 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 18 Apr 95 p A1, A2

[Report by political correspondent Aluf Ben]

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres suggests changing the procedures of the peace process with Syria in order to break the deadlock in the talks.

In Peres' view, instead of focusing in the talks on achieving agreement on security arrangements while putting off the discussion on withdrawal and normalization, parallel discussions should be held on all the components of a settlement and the negotiations should be raised to the ministerial level.

Israel has so far refused to discuss with the Syrians the details of a Golan withdrawal and has demanded that their first be an agreement on the security arrangements in the military experts' talks. In the last few weeks, the talks have stalemated because Israel has rejected the Syrian demand to decide on the principle of "equal security arrangements" on both sides of the border while Syria has refused to renew the officers' talks.

"We must change the agenda," Peres said in an interview to HA'ARETZ. "The attempt to deal with only one issue might not be possible. We must consider a comprehensive approach, to discuss all four issues simultaneously: withdrawal and borders, peace and the nature of relations, security arrangements, and a timetable."

According to Peres, "the current dispute in the negotiations is over equality in security. The difference between us and the Syrians on that is that we say: Yes, equality in security, but the equality must be the outcome of the negotiations. The Syrians say: No, the equality must be expressed in equal steps during the negotiations.

"That, of course, makes the deal impossible. What does it mean? Does it mean that the outcome has to be equality? There has to be security for the Syrians and for Israel. To achieve that, if one side has to move 2 km and the other 4 km, it does not matter.

"Equality in security then might not be achieved without discussing all four components of the negotiations. Tell the Syrians that they have to withdraw 4 km while we withdraw 2 km, but that in return, we are giving them a better border due to the withdrawal and that the outcome is a function of all the components and not a single component."

The foreign minister said that Israel must insist on raising the level of negotiations from the level of ambassadors to that of foreign ministers. He said: "The high level will create options currently nonexistent, in other words resourcefulness. The difference between a minister and an ambassador is that the ambassador cannot make mistakes, a minister can."

Peres said the Israeli-Syrian agreement will include recognition of Syria's special status in Lebanon. "Whether we say it publicly or not, we understand that negotiations are being conducted over two countries." In his view, this would answer Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad's demand to receive more than Egyptian President Anwar al-Sadat got in the peace accord with Israel.

Peres also said that peace with Syria must symbolize the comprehensive peace in the Middle East. "The difference between Syria and all the previous states is that this is the final peace. We do not have anybody else to make peace with. That has to be the end of war, and that will also make it easier on the Arabs and us to present a new picture."

Interviewed on NPT, Talks With Syria

TA1804083995 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 18 Apr 95

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by correspondents Gil Yerushalmi and Gilat Mo'av; place not given—live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Yerushalmi] We hear from New York that the United States is pressuring China to revoke its nuclear deal with Iran. As far as we know, part of the pressure is due to information Israel has transferred to the United States and other states through various channels. What can you tell us about the information Israel has about that?

[Peres] We know that Iran does not give a hoot about what it signs. As a country, it cheats, and everything it says is worthless. We know that in practice it works very hard in various ways to attain a nuclear option. That not only means that it will attain a nuclear capability, but it says publicly that it plans or demands the destruction of another people. That is a combination of two things: It is a terrible policy against which nobody is protesting, even though Iran is the only UN member that publicly threatens the destruction of another member. Furthermore, in order to carry out its threat it wants to attain a nuclear option. To that end, it is trying to smuggle information and nuclear components. It is negotiating with Russia to complete the two reactors started by the Germans.

[Yerushalmi] Has Israel appealed to Germany to cease the ties with Iran? Could that have been the reason for Prime Minister Rabin's visit to Chancellor Kohl?

[Peres] No, we did not call on the Germans to stop. We asked them not to help the Iranian regime do terrible things.

[Mo'av] Mr. Peres, in view of everything we now know about Iran and Iraq, to what extent does the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT]—which the United States it trying to get reapproved—have teeth to stop such states?

[Peres] Teeth are only important when a decision is made to bite. For instance, when a decision was made to bite Iraq, it was bitten. Therefore, it is important to have teeth, but their presence is not sufficient to ensure that the NPT will be honored.

[Yerushalmi] Mr. Peres, do you not believe that the dialogue Israel opened on the nuclear issue with Egypt constitutes an erosion in its traditional position?

[Peres] No, we have not started any dialogue. The Egyptians raised the issue. It was first brought up during the negotiations over the Camp David accords. That agreement refers to territory in return for peace, nothing else. The distance between Dimona and Egypt was the same then as it is today. Information on Dimona was hazy then, just as it is now. There has not been any real change. Israel remains firm in its position. It said one thing, which is an innovation, but even that is not a real innovation. We said that if peace comes with the 24 Arab League members, as well as Iran, we will start working for a Middle East clear of nuclear threats.

[Mo'av] To return to the NPT. Why do you think the United States is so insistent on the indefinite renewal of the treaty and is not content with 25 years, even though that could also be sufficient for the time being?

[Peres] Because it wants nuclear nonproliferation to be permanent.

[Mo'av] Yet perhaps at the cost of losing some countries that oppose an indefinite timeframe?

[Peres] They will not lose anybody, because approval depends on a majority and the United States has the necessary majority. It has prevented many countries from entering the field. It has also led to nuclear-free areas, such as Latin America, where at first there were one or two states that tried to obtain nuclear arms and have now given them up. The real development in Latin America is that the mutual threat has lapsed, and therefore, the race for nuclear weapons has ceased. That is also our claim. We cannot talk as though the only threat were nuclear. In Burundi, hundreds of thousands of people were murdered with old-style weapons. Does that warm our hearts?

[Yerushalmi] On the Syrian issue, in a HA'ARETZ interview published today, you said that the negotiating process with Syria should be changed and that the four aspects of the arrangement should be discussed in parallel. Has that proposal been made to the Syrians?

[Peres] First of all, it has been on the agenda all the time. It is not contrary to what is happening now, and we are constantly urging raising the level of the negotiations. Those are two demands we make every day. I fear that if we take only the narrow path, it will get stuck.

[Yerushalmi] But have the Syrians reacted to the proposal?

[Peres] Sometimes yes, and sometimes no.

[Yerushalmi] In other words?

[Peres] Lately, the Syrians have been prepared to discuss the security issue, but look where it has led. It has so far led to a deadlock.

Dialogue With Egypt on Relations Intensified

TA1804104595 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 18 Apr 95 p 2

[Report by Hemi Shalev]

[FBIS Translated Text] Israel and Egypt have intensified their political dialogue, and for the first time since the signing of the peace agreement they have conducted a professional dialogue and coordination talks on their relations with other bodies such as the EU, NATO, and Mediterranean forums.

Yehuda Milo, Foreign Ministry deputy director general for European Affairs, and Ran Qori'el, director of the Foreign Ministry's Europe Division, went to Cairo last weekend for meetings with senior Egyptian Foreign Ministry officials on relations with Europe and NATO. The Egyptians said they support the inclusion of Israel in Mediterranean forums.

Jerusalem sources yesterday expressed satisfaction with the talks conducted by Milo and Qori'el. Political sources said that the talks are a significant step forward in the bilateral dialogue and that they signal Cairo's desire to preserve correct relations with Israel despite the differences of opinion on the nuclear issue.

Troops Kill 'Infiltrator' From Jordan

TA1504115095 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 15 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Israeli troops killed an 18-year-old infiltrator from Jordan last night near Na'aran, north of Jericho, after he refused orders to stop. Soldiers found a Koran and personal documents on his body.

Yesterday afternoon, an armed terrorist from Jordan was caught in the Dead Sea area after firing at guards at the magnesium plant. The guards fired back, wounding him in the leg and capturing him. He turned out to be a Palestinian resident in Jordan.

Protest Lodged With Jordan

TA1604183395 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 16 Apr 95

[Report by military affairs correspondent Alon Ben-David]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Israel has lodged a protest with Jordan over its failure to warn it about a terrorist's crossing the border two days ago. The terrorist, a Palestinian residing in Jordan, was shot outside a Dead Sea factory. Today he was remanded in custody in a Beersheba court. Our military affairs correspondent Alon Ben-David today toured the Israeli-Jordanian border.

[Begin Ben-David recording] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] is still trying to find out how an armed terrorist managed to cross the border without being detected by our soldiers. [passage omitted]

Earlier, the Jordanians had spotted the terrorist, opened fire, but missed him. Contrary to procedures, they did not warn the Israeli side about it. In this case, Jordanian routine security proved to be more alert than ours. This case should turn on a red light in the IDF in view of the loophole revealed in the border between us and Jordan. This case also reminds us that terrorist attacks might also occur along a peace border. [end recording]

Peres Qatar Visit 'Prematurely' Reported; Qatar Cancels

TA1604171095 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 16 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The authorities of Qatar have called off their plans to invite Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres for a visit. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz has learned that the reason cited for halting the contacts related to the visit was the premature report on Qol Yisra'el about Qatar's plans to invite an Israeli personality for a visit.

Turkish Opposition Leader Meets Leading Officials

Reviews Ties With Peres

TA1404132395 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 14 Apr 95 p 3

[Report by Moti Bassok]

[FBIS Translated Text] "Turkey needs a safe Israel, and I believe that Israel needs a safe Turkey." This remark was made yesterday by Bulent Ecevit, Turkish prime minister between 1973 and 1979 and current chairman of the Democratic Leftist Party as well as its candidate for premiership, in a conversation with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres.

Ecevit and Peres exchanged views regarding developments in the Middle East and Iraq. Ecevit has special relations with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn. Peres told his guest that Israel does not have a problem with the Iraqi people, only with Saddam who is a tyrant and murders even his own people. He must not be allowed to use chemical or nuclear weapons. Israel is waiting for Iraq to return to its senses and play its real role in the Middle East, Peres said.

In anticipation of Ecevit's expected meeting with Yasir 'Arafat in Gaza today, Peres said that the Palestinians may have 10 different opinions on every subject, but that only one should be allowed to hold a gun. Turkey has a key role in the region. The separation between state and religion that it introduced should serve as a model for the Middle East nations.

Earlier yesterday, Peres met with Raghunandan Lal Bhatia, Indian minister of state for external affairs. The visitor noted that India greatly appreciates Israel's courage in the peace process although the mission is difficult and painful. He said that today, he is convinced that political agreements should have an economic aspect for the public to enjoy the "fruits of peace."

The two ministers agreed that the relations between Israel and India are making fast and satisfactory progress after long years of freeze. Peres termed the relations as "a belated love affair."

Meets With Rabin, Beilin on Peace

TA1604115095 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 16 Apr 95 p A10

[Report by political correspondent Aluf Ben]

[FBIS Translated Text] In a meeting with Bulent Ecevit, the former Turkish prime minister who visited Israel last week, Prime Minister Rabin said: "If we had to wait for the Arabs to become democratic, we would be unable to make peace with them for another 100 years." Ecevit, now the head of Turkey's opposition Democratic Leftist Party, told Rabin he hopes the peace process will help promote democracy in the Middle East, which at the present time has only two democracies: Turkey and Israel. Rabin replied: "We attribute great importance to democratic values, but we cannot impose them on our neighbors as a precondition for negotiations."

In a meeting with Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin, Ecevit said the process of democratization in the Middle East will entail a difficult transition period of several years, but the new regimes will ultimately bring greater stability.

Beilin said it is in Israel's interest for the present Arab regimes to remain in power because they are committed to the peace process. Ecevit, who was the Turkish prime minister during the 1970's, said he hopes the Palestinians will establish a democratic state and serve as an example for other Middle Eastern countries.

Beilin said Palestinian Authority [PA] Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has set up a centralist regime in the Gaza Strip which resembles the regimes in the Arab world. Beilin briefed Ecevit on the political debate within Israel over whether to accept 'Arafat's request that separate, direct elections be held for the post of PA chairman in parallel with the elections for the council members. "I opposed this," Beilin explained, "because I believe general elections will be more democratic and guarantee a wider representation for the various sectors of the Palestinian public. Rabin, however, adopted a pragmatic approach and said if that is what 'Arafat wants, Israel should agree."

3 Hamas Men Killed; Fatah Activists Detained

TA1604083995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 16 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Three wanted Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] terrorists were killed in Hebron this morning in an encounter with an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] unit. Our soldiers sustained no casualties. Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that it is believed that the terrorists who were killed in Hebron were wanted for serious attacks on Jews in the Hebron Hills area. A curfew was imposed on the area in which the terrorists were killed.

Several Fatah activists were detained by the security forces in the Ramallah area. Our correspondent reports that those detained include Khalid al-Matur and Taha 'Awwad, Fatah leaders in the Ramallah area. Also detained were Fatah activists who were involved in the kidnapping of Arab residents in this area.

Judaea and Samaria District policemen confiscated military equipment from the house of right-wing activist Shmu'el Sitrin. Among the items found in the house were magazines for Galil and M-16 rifles and an Uzi submachine gun, hundreds of bullets, military- issue sleeping bags, and a military flak jacket. Our police affairs correspondent Aviv Bushinsky reports that the search was conducted at Sitrin's house in the wake of police suspicions that he held an album stolen from the Cave of the Patriarchs and which contained photographs of those prevented from entering the cave. Sitrin was not at home, and the police left him a summons for interrogation.

Shahaq: 'Arafat Avoiding Arresting Hamas Men

TA1404153195 Tel Aviv HATZOFE in Hebrew 14 Apr 95 p 1

[Report by Hagay Huberman]

[FBIS Translated Text] 'Arafat mainly detains members of the Islamic Jihad, which is considered a small and weak organization, and leaves alone members of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], which is much stronger. This remark was made two days ago by Lieutenant General Amnon Shahaq, chief of staff, in a meeting in his Tel Aviv office with representatives of the Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza.

The chief of staff explained that 'Arafat is doing this because he believes that the Islamic Jihad poses a lesser threat to his rule due to its weakness, and because he wants to signal to Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] that this might happen to its members if it does not stop fighting him.

The chief of staff added that he does not believe that 'Arafat will keep up the detentions. Regarding the continuation of the process, Shahaq said that he does not believe the negotiations will end by the 1 July deadline and that he is certain that implementation will take place at a much later date, if the negotiations are successful.

Our correspondent reports that both parties in the meeting were tense and distrusting, despite the fact that the chief of staff's views are acceptable to the council members. The council members hold Shahaq responsible for completing and implementing the Cairo agreement. Some view him as a "political chief of staff," although it is known that Shahaq has recently expressed his opposition to the continuation of the Oslo process until 'Arafat proves he is in control of the Gaza Strip.

IDF Sources 'Satisfied' With PA's Antiterror Moves

TA1804110595 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 18 Apr 95 p A1

[Report by military correspondent Eytan Rabin]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Defense establishment sources are somewhat satisfied with Yasir 'Arafat's action against the Muslim terror organizations. The Palestinian police are conducting detentions and house-to-house searches for fugitives.

At the same time, reports arriving from Gaza indicate that despite the Palestinian security forces' determination to take on Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and the Islamic Jihad, they cannot locate the fugitives who hide with their supporters in the Gaza Strip. A senior IDF [Israel Defense Forces] officer said the fact that many Palestinians aid the fugitives is causing 'Arafat great difficulties.

The officer added that the scope of the detentions is insufficient and that the Hamas detainees do not belong to 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam squads. The IDF is constantly updated by the Palestinian Authority [PA] on the measures against Hamas and the Islamic Jihad.

According to reports arriving from the Gaza Strip, 'Arafat requested that in exchange for his moves against the terror organizations Israel lift the closure and permit the passage of goods, mainly agricultural produce. 'Arafat complained about the grave economic situation in the Gaza Strip and about the 40-50 percent inflation rate caused by the closure.

IDF sources have reservations about these figures, claiming that they are exaggerated.

It has been learned that Israel does not intend to lift the closure on the Gaza Strip before the end of the holiday, or to significantly ease the passage of goods and the exit of workers. After the holiday, significant easing measures will apparently be implemented in relation to the closure. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Meets Christopher in New York

JN1804060995 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0400 GMT 18 Apr 95

[Report by 'Ali Hamati in New York]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti met with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher in New York last night. During the meeting at al-Kabariti's place of residence the two sides discussed the latest developments in the Middle East, the peace process, and bilateral relations.

Foreign Minister al-Kabariti is in New York on an official visit to the United Nations to deliver Jordan's speech at a conference on reviewing and extending the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT]. On the sidelines of the conference, al-Kabariti met with Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz.

Al-Kabariti will deliver Jordan's speech tomorrow, Wednesday, in which he will explain Jordan's stand on the NPT and the importance of this treaty to countries which do not own nuclear weapons, in terms of securing necessary protection against any nuclear threat.

On the importance of extending this treaty to a country like Jordan, 'Adnan Abu-'Awdah, Jordan's permanent representative to the United Nations, said the treaty has a special importance to Jordan. Jordan's neighbor is a country which owns nuclear weapons and has nuclear reactors. In statements to Radio Jordan, 'Abu-'Awdah said Israel has a nuclear reactor in the Negev area which is very close to populated Jordanian areas. What makes this issue more important, he added, is that Israel is not a member of the NPT. Jordan's permanent representative to the United Nations said that Jordan's interest stems from the concern resulting from such a situation. This is because keeping nuclear facilities in a specific country—in this case Israel—away from international supervision represented by the International Atomic Energy Agency would result in something similar to what happened in Chernobyl in the former Soviet Union.

Furthermore, some concern prevailed among Arab delegations to this conference due to the absence of Israel's delegation. An Arab League official, who preferred to remain anonymous, said Israel's absence from the NPT conference is a major obstacle to the possibility of crystallizing a unified stand on this treaty. [passage omitted]

Daily Questions Reasons for Extending NPT

JN1704105895 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 17 Apr 95 p 6

[Editorial: "Playing Fair at U.N."]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The U.N. Security Council made an unsuccessful bid last week to allay the anxieties and fears of the non-nuclear countries when it adopted a half-backed [as published] resolution on the eve of the New York meeting to discuss the extension of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). One article in the resolution spoke of offering "technical, medical, scientific or humanitarian assistance" to countries which stay away from developing or possessing nuclear weapons even if they were threatened by them. It is not surprising that the greater number of the nuclear have-nots immediately registered their disappointment with the council's action because what they had been waiting for and expecting was something much more coherent and effective. Non nuclear states which renounce the right to posses weapons available to the big and mighty nations deserve a more meaningful assistance should they be threatened by or become the targets of nuclear attacks. The least that is needed in this context is an ironclad assurance that the attacking or threatening country would be met with a resolute counterattack or threat from the five permanent members of the council.

This is not to mention that as things stand now with the council, in terms of its composition and rules of procedure, there can be no fail-safe guarantee that the principle five nuclear powers would or could indeed exercise this prerogative should it be agreed upon as a quid pro quo for accepting the indefinite extension of the treaty. The dismay of the weaker countries, as represented mainly by the Non-Aligned Movement nations, over the preparatory work being done in anticipation of this week's meeting in New York, was made loud and clear when they made it well-known in advance that they are not prepared to give the nuclear powers a blank check before their reasonable demands are met.

Even the pledge by the major nuclear powers to negotiate in "good faith," for nuclear disarmament does not go far enough to satisfy the legitimate concerns of the have-nots. The language used in the resolution suggests that the permanent members of the council have not been negotiating in good faith all along. This is one factor. Another is connected to the kind of assurances that the nuclear countries will give on their intentions for the future. Then there is the question of making the pious commitment to nuclear disarmament a sine qua non for the desired extension by making the renewal of the treaty contingent on the implementation of the promise to end nuclear armament within an agreed period. Short of doing what is necessary, there is every reason to suspect the real intentions of the big powers in attempting to extend the treaty.

Daily Concerned Over Hebron Violence, Peace Process

JN1704065995 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 17 Apr 95 pp 1, 23

[Editorial: "A Crime in Cold Blood"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The incident which occurred in Hebron yesterday morning in which three innocent Palestinian youths were killed is a blatant crime that was committed in cold blood by regular military forces who do not attach any importance to human life when that human is an Arab.

Perhaps what is most painful and infuriating about this crime is that it was committed because the three youths were suspected of being wanted by the occupation forces. They were showered with bullets without even checking their identification cards and without any warning. It later became clear that they were the victims of wrong intelligence information on the part of Israeli security organs. Hence, such an incident that would hardly occur even in a remote forest, indicates that the occupation forces have this deep- rooted inclination to escalate hatred and bitterness and expand the circle of mutual violence and killing. They hope that this will obstruct the implementation of the peace agreement and add more obstacles on the path of its implementation.

What does Israel expect from people who are under siege and whose sons are being assassinated—simply on mere suspicion or a small piece of intelligence information—other than an increase in violence and hatred and the exacerbation of the vicious circle of fire and blood? This is instead of reinforcing an atmosphere of confidence, increasing peace advocates, and expediting an end to this sad course.

As we express our concern over the fate of the entire peace process if the current circle of violence continues, we would like Israel to realize early that it is hard to establish a partial peace or maintain any gain on this or that track with the continued obstruction and avoidance of the requirements of peace on the central track.

Muslim Brotherhood Calls 'Authority' Israeli 'Tool'

NC1504202795 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1730 GMT 15 Apr 95

[Telephone interview with Yahya Shaqra, information official of the Jordanian Muslim Brotherhood, in Amman, by unidentified Tehran Radio correspondent, in Tehran; date not given; from the "News and Reports" feature—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Correspondent] Mr. Shaqra, in your latest statement you criticized Yasir 'Arafat's behavior toward the Islamists in the occupied territories. Could you please brief us on this statement and your criticism of 'Arafat and his authority?

[Shaqra] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. The repressive actions of the Palestinian self-rule authority against the Palestinian people's struggler vanguards, notably Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and the Islamic Jihad prove the following things to us in the Muslim Brotherhood's Information Bureau: First of all, this Authority has complied with the demands of the Zionist enemy and the U.S. scheme to strike at and restrict jihad activity in Palestine. Second, the authority has become a tool for implementing Zionist demands. Consequently, it is standing in the same trench with the Zionist enemy against the Palestinian people's legitimate jihad against occupation and usurpation. Third, the limited self-rule Authority is emulating the treasonous role played by Lahd's army [South Lebanese Army] in south Lebanon. Fourth, a jihad in Palestine to liberate the land, the people, honor, and the sanctities is a religious duty that will last until Judgement Day.

Neither the Palestinian Authority nor any other entity has the right to disarm the mujahidin or prevent them from carrying out this duty until the day victory is obtained or martyrdom is granted, God willing.

The Palestinian people have carried out this duty since the accursed Balfour Declaration. Apparently the forces of tyranny and aggression have discovered that they will not be able to confront this jihad, so they appointed the self-rule Authority to carry out this role in their stead.

The Muslim Brotherhood salutes the jihad movements, notably Hamas, for the sacrifices that their heroes are making and for exercising self-restraint to prevent Palestinian infighting. It calls on the self-rule Authority to halt its repressive and hostile actions and stop the threats and incitement that it is carrying out at home and abroad against the mujahidin. It is actually undermining Palestinian national unity and causing resentment among the Muslim masses in the entire Arab and Islamic worlds, who regard Hamas as the vanguard of jihad and the hope of liberation and dignity. These masses stand ready to back and protect Hamas by all available means. We also call on all Islamic forces, nations, governments, parties, and organizations to confront this conspiracy against the Palestinian people's jihad. This jihad is the symbol of steadfastness throughout the Islamic world. God is the protector of the righteous. God is a sufficient protector and helper. [Koranic verses] This statement was issued by the Muslim Brotherhood Information Bureau.

[Correspondent] Thank you Mr. Shaqra. How does Jordan's Muslim Brotherhood view the current conditions of the Islamic nation in light of the Gaza-Jericho agreement and the dangers that this agreement might pose to the nation's future?

[Shaqra] We feel sorrow for the Islamic nation in its current condition. It is almost certain that it has surrendered to the U.S.-Zionist scheme—an imperialist scheme which seeks, under the cover of the imperialist new world order, to dominate the Islamic world, its resources, and destiny. We hope that there are still forces who refuse such submission and that Islam will revive and fulfill the promise made by God and his prophet, may God's prayer and peace be with him.

[Correspondent] Thank you, Mr. Shaqra.

[Shaqra] May God reward you well. Thanks to you.

Ba'th Official Addresses Rally on Peace Stance

JN1704181795 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1456 GMT 17 Apr 95

[Address by Sulayman Qaddah, assistant regional secretary of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and representative of President Hafiz al-Asad, at a speech rally marking the 49th Evacuation Day anniversary at the Damascus University Auditorium—live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] O comrades and brothers: Since the inception of the glorious Corrective Movement, the liberation of the Golan and occupied Arab territories has been one of our key goals and a top priority for us. That is why the glorious October liberation war broke out. The peace battle we are waging is meant to achieve this noble objective. Syria has accepted UN Security Council Resolution No. 338 of 1973, which incorporates Resolution 242. Syria also made it clear that it will work to arrive at a just, comprehensive peace. Since that time, it has been an important part of Syria's strategy to work to achieve peace on the basis of the resolutions of international legitimacy. Syria has contributed to all international initiatives to achieve peace in the region. Those initiatives were aborted and obstructed by the Israeli rejection. Syria opened all doors for the launching of the peace process on the basis of trading land for peace, implementing the resolutions of international legitimacy, Israel's comprehensive withdrawal from the Golan and the Arab territories occupied in June 1967, and ensuring the Palestinian Arab people's national rights. Syria also took part in the Madrid peace conference and the subsequent Washington negotiations.

Despite the fact that over three and half years have passed, the negotiations have shown that Israel does not want peace. It does not want just ['adil] and equitable [mutakafi'] peace, the peace that would ensure continuity and stability in the region. It wants to have peace, keep the territories, and impose its domination. It has continued to place obstacles and barriers in the way of peace. It has continued to procrastinate and evade the requirements and essence of peace.

Regrettably, Israel has successfully entrapped some Arabs into signing partial, separate agreements whose overt objective is peace. Their covert objective, however, is perpetuating the occupation. Those agreements have exacerbated and complicated the situation. The unfolding facts and events are proving that those partial, separate agreements did not restore territory or rights, did not lead to stability, and did not achieve peace and security. They are liable to come apart and create further acts of violence and anxiety in the region. This is because they are against the will of the people, the facts of history, and the requirements of a genuine peace.

Comrades and brothers: We want peace. We have clearly stated that we are ready to accept the legitimate requirements of peace and that we want balanced mutawazin], equal [mutasawi], and mutual [mutabal] security. Only this ensures peace and its durability. Syria's leader, President Hafiz al-Asad [applause], has frequently expressed Syria's commitment to just, comprehensive peace. It will continue efforts to achieve peace on the basis of equitability [takafu'] and balance [tawazun] and the restoration of the territory and rights in accordance with its pan-Arab principles and the values of right and justice. Syria is not in a hurry. It will never accept anything that does not meet its people's hopes, does not lead to the full liberation of the Golan and the occupied Arab territories, and does not maintain its nation's rights. It will constantly support any sincere and constructive effort to bring the peace process to a successful conclusion. It will most firmly confront the Israeli territorial ambitions and hegemonic schemes.

Syria has struggled for a long time against foreign colonialism and shouldered the burdens of the conflict to liberate the territories and maintain rights and dignity. It realizes that equitable security and just, comprehensive peace based on international legitimacy is the peace that endures and provides regional peace and stability. Israel's impossible conditions, obstruction of the peace process, and evasion of recognizing the resolutions of international legitimacy and the requirements of peace aim at misleading the world, aborting the peace process, posing serious dangers to the region, and pushing the region to further conflicts and woes. The valiant acts of the national resistance and the heroic intifadah in Palestine, the Golan, and southern Lebanon are a national struggle that will continue and grow as a legitimate form of self-defense and a natural response to the occupation, aggression, and offense to national dignity. What kind of peace does Israel seek at a time when it constantly works to stockpile more weapons in its gigantic arsenal? Israel is working to increase its military capabilities and possess the most sophisticated and lethal nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction. It also refuses to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT], thus defying the will of the international community and the entire world under the pretext of security. Meanwhile, it demands that the Arabs and the world sign this treaty and refuses to accept that they possess the minimum level of weapons required for self-defense.

Thus, it undoubtedly shows its expansionist ambitions, aggressive tendencies, and anti-peace strategy. Israel's decision not to sign the NPT poses threats to the Arabs and gives rise to further concern and tension, and to a race to acquire weapons of mass destruction in the region, given the fact that people have an instinctive tendency to defend themselves and ward off imminent dangers. Consequently, this will render this region a constant hotbed of tension that could spark off an explosion in the face of the world.

Our clear perspective regarding the future of the pan-Arab destiny and the challenges posed to it confirms that there is an imminent danger facing us, one that is targeting our identity, heritage, and pan-Arab existence. The danger here lies in the suspicious Zionist call for the creation of a new Middle Eastern order based on regional affiliation. The aim is to build an economic, political, cultural, and security order embracing all countries of the region under Israel to realize the latter's interests and ambitions. The new order being promoted is meant to replace pan-Arab affiliation and destroy pan-Arab ties. It is also meant to merge Israel into the region so that it may control the Arab homeland's resources. This new colonialist scheme is meant to allow Israel to realize its expansionist objectives and its old Zionist dream.

Pan-Arab duty makes it incumbent upon the Arabs to demonstrate solidarity and make concerted efforts to meet challenges and dangers. They are also required to make persistent efforts to foil and expose these suspicious and misleading calls, to enlighten the Arab masses about the facts of Arab history and the values cherished in our heritage, and to show total political and intellectual commitment to pan-Arab existence and the Arab nation's causes. Moreover, the Arabs are required to promote faith in Arab unity and pan-Arab links, which are the only way to achieve freedom, progress, and dignity.

O comrades and brothers: On the immortal Evacuation Day anniversary, which evokes patriotism and sacrifice, we would like to extend our heartfelt congratulations to our lofty people and their heroic war veterans. Likewise, we would like to extend our warm congratulations and best greetings to the well-beloved struggler President Hafiz al-Asad, the great mujahid who treasures values and principles. [applause and chants]

Al-Asad's Syria will remain the Arabs' pan-Arab bastion. It will continue to uphold its principles and the nation's rights. It will continue the effort to develop its capabilities, safeguard its people's dignity, make great accomplishments, and build giant edifices. Likewise, it will continue to serve as an oasis of freedom and democracy, and a paragon of stability and prosperity.

O martyrs and war veterans, who are always very much alive in our minds and history: Rest at ease, for the march is forging ahead. It is being protected and upheld by Hafiz al-Asad, the nation's honest and great leader. [applause and chants] His constant option is to safeguard the nation's rights, promote the homeland's progress, and protect the people's dignity. And here are the people's masses rallying behind his historic and victorious leadership, demonstrating an impregnable national unity that mirrors his own traits and seeks inspiration from his own principles and characteristics. The people's masses are walking in his footsteps to promote their pride and enhance the quality of their life, for he is the hope for liberating the territories and building the desired future.

On the anniversary of jihad and martyrdom, we extend the greetings of deference and reverence to Staff Major General Engineer Paratrooper Basil Hafiz al-Asad, the martyr of the homeland and the nation and the pride of all youths, [applause] and to our nation's righteous martyrs. [applause and chants]

We extend greetings of endearment and pride to our valiant Armed Forces, and to the heroic war veterans. [applause] We also greet the courageous resistance men in Palestine, the Golan, and southern Lebanon. [applause] We extend greetings of affection and appreciation to our people's masses—to their popular organizations, professional unions, and their National Progressive Front. [applause] We extend greetings of allegiance and loyalty to our great party, the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party [applause and chants], and to the well-beloved President Hafiz al-Asad, secretary general of the party and leader of our nation's march, whom we take for an example in the course of our struggle.

May God's peace be upon you. [applause and chants]

Press: No Signing of NPT Without Israel

JN1804061395 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 18 Apr 95

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] In its editorial, the newspaper TISHRIN says: Meetings of the international conference on the renewal of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] began yesterday. The meetings of this conference are expected to witness heated discussion on the issue of nuclear armament in the region, especially since strong pressures were exerted on the Arab states to force them to sign the treaty.

The paper adds: What attracts attention is that those who exert these pressures seek to prevent the Arabs from possessing nuclear weapons, while they feign blindness to the Israeli nuclear arsenal and exhaust themselves for the sake of creating pretexts to save Israel from signing the treaty, and, consequently, from destroying its storage of these weapons.

TISHRIN says: The Israeli nuclear weapons threaten the region's security and stability.

The paper wonders: As long as the region is heading toward peace, why does Israel refuse to relinquish its nuclear arms? The paper answers: We did not feel that things are actually heading toward peace, for the separate agreements have escalated tension and complicated prospects for a comprehensive solution. Moreover, Israel has also escalated its repressive measures in the occupied territories, its aggressions against Lebanon, and its intransigence on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks.

The paper adds: The conflict in the region is not over, the danger of new wars has not vanished, and the Israeli threat to the Arabs and their resources have not stopped.

Concluding, TISHRIN says: If the international community really seeks to save the region from the danger of nuclear weapons, then it should force Israel to eliminate its current weapons and sign the aforesaid treaty. Otherwise, Syria will not sign this treaty and will not go back on its efforts to protect its security and that of the Arab nation, its rights, and future.

Radio on Importance of 'Reciprocal' Commitments

JN1504164095 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1139 GMT 15 Apr 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gentlemen: Speaking about strange Israeli statements and actions, perhaps the strangest statements coming from Israeli officials are those occasional statements on Israeli concessions in which the Israelis loudly voice their refusal to make any concessions to Syria.

Whenever there is talk about withdrawal from the Golan, Israeli officials hesitate to say that word, avoid saying the word "full", and start talking about painful concessions as a price for peace. Whenever there is talk about security arrangements and whenever Syria adheres to the principle of equality [tasawi], equitability [takafu'], and reciprocity [taqabul], Israeli officials adhere to ambiguous concepts. They propose concepts and formulas that are unacceptable because they encroach on sovereignty, are not in line with the basic principle of a peace that has to do with full withdrawal, and also give Israel the chance to dictate conditions by presenting issues Syria will not accept under any circumstances. This is because these issues contradict Syria's national principles and pan-Arab constants just as much as they contradict international legitimacy and law and the world's experience with treaties. These treaties first take into consideration the principles of equality, equitability, and parallelism [tawazi] when dealing with all issues.

The peace process was established on a clear basis the with Security Council resolutions as its essence and justice and comprehensiveness as the way to achieve security and stability in the region. When Israel withdraws from the occupied Golan and southern Lebanon, it will not be giving Syria and Lebanon something it owns, because it has no right to anything. These are Arab territories and the Israeli occupation of these territories is illegitimate and is internationally condemned. The occupation will not change the fact that Syria and Lebanon own the right to geographical and historical sovereignty over these territories. In addition, full withdrawal is a condition for a just and comprehensive peace and a key to the other peace requirements. We cannot talk about peace as long as one or another Arab territory is fully or partially occupied.

The principle of parallelism, equality, and equitability in security arrangements completes the principle of a just solution in which peace is in everyone's interest because it leads to stability in the region. Besides, one party cannot demand privileges under the pretext of security, because the concept of security includes reciprocal [mutabadalah] commitments and cannot be a reward to one party at the expense of another. Furthermore, the existing Israeli expansionist aggression presents an objective view that the Arabs need security and security guarantees. This is because they are the victims of the Israeli aggression. It is their territories that are occupied. It is their future that is threatened because Israel owns sophisticated conventional and unconventional weapons. These weapons threaten the entire nation's pan-Arab security and give Israel the power to impose a hegemony over the region and implement Shim'on Peres' vision of a new Middle East based on the standards of Israeli interests.

When the peace process is obstructed by differences on security arrangements, no one is unaware of the Israeli responsibility for this obstruction and stalemate. Certainly, the party that demands equitability cannot be responsible for obstruction; instead, it is the one who demands impossible conditions, seeks gains and privileges, and ignores the fact that UN charters and Security Council resolutions do not allow rewarding the aggressor for his aggression or the occupier for his occupation. If not, concepts and standards would have been shaken, along with the standards of international relations.

Real concession rests in the Arabs' relinquishment of their territories or part of them and their acceptance of an Israeli edge and Israel's security conditions—something Syria rejects. Israel knows this, just as much as it knows Syria will not bargain over any territories and that peace, according to Syria, is not an issue of buying or selling.

Last but not least, no one can impose on Syria anything that undermines its security or contradicts its conviction and its national and pan-Arab interests.

'Sources:' Gaza Operations Show 'Fragile' Peace

JN1404121995 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 12 Apr 95 p 23

[Report by 'Assaf 'Abbud Damascus]

[FBIS Translated Text] Syria has asserted that the two fedayeen operations that took place in Gaza last Sunday [9 April] are the result of Israeli practices toward the Palestinian people. Informed Syrian sources told AL-ITTIHAD that it is clear that Israel has not changed its policy, which seeks to swallow up Arab territory, establish settlements, and besiege the Palestinian territories. The sources said the Tel Aviv rulers want land and peace together.

The sources added that the fedayeen operations show the fragility of the Israeli accord with the Palestinian Authority, which has not achieved the desired peace. This accord also abandons the simplest Palestinian rights. The sources said that Israel is mistaken if it thinks that its fragile agreement will end the Palestine question and achieve for it peace through occupation.

Information Minister on Iraq, Israel, U.S. Envoy

LD1704084495 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0750 GMT 17 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Kuwait, 17 April, KUNA—The Syrian information minister, Dr. Muhammad Salman, stressed in a newspaper interview published here today that Saddam Husayn's regime lacked any positive factor which served Iraq and the Arab situation.

In an interview conducted by newspaper, AL-SIYASAH, in Damascus on the 49th anniversary of Evacuation Day in Syria, Salman said that "the Iraqi regime will not cease to inflict more damage on Iraq and the Arabs as long as it remained sitting heavily on the chest of the Iraqi people."

The Syrian minister pointed out that peace was a strategic option for Syria, and in the light of this option it accepted the American initiative which considered the implementation of the Security Council's resolutions No.s 242 and 338 the basis for the establishment of a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

He stressed that the Syrian and Israeli chiefs of staff would not meet as long as Israel refused to accept the principles of the security arrangements in the Golan. He pointed out that the recent tour of the American coordinator, Dennis Ross, in the region had not achieved any progress at the level of the peace march.

He pointed out "that the Syrian media will witness a move proportional to the situation which would result for reaching a peaceful agreement between Syria and Israel, pointing out that Syria was at present still in a state of war with Israel, which occupies the Golan, and that required the continuation of the political and media mobilization connected with the consolidation of national unity." [passage omitted]

Al-Asad Meets Lebanon's al-Hirawi on Peace Process

JN1504183495 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1715 GMT 15 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi in al-Rawdah Palace at 1200 today. Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam attended the meeting. This meeting was followed by a closed meeting between the two presidents which was later joined by 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, the vice president; Mahmud al-Zu'bi, the prime minister; Dr. Salim Yasin, deputy prime minister for economic affairs; and Muhammad Harbah, the interior minister.

During these meetings, discussion dealt with the peace process and contacts concerning this process as well as developments in the region and bilateral relations.

Afghanistan

Foreign Ministry Accuses Russia of 'Interference'

LD1704180195 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1600 GMT 17 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic State of Afghanistan has published the following protest to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation on a visit by that country's parliamentary delegation to the northern areas of Afghanistan.

As it has been reported by international news agencies, recently a 12-man strong Russian parliamentary delegation paid a visit to the north of Afghanistan, and [words indistinct] of the armed opponents of the Tajik Government from northern Afghanistan into Tajikistan has been given as the reason for this visit. The Afghan Ministry of Foreign Affairs believes that in keeping with accepted principles, nations should resolve their mutual problems through central governments and on the basis of understanding and negotiations, the observance of peaceful coexistence and respect for the right of national sovereignty.

As a stable central government, Afghanistan—which makes efforts step by step in the interests of peace and the stability of the situation by applying a sound political and military policy—has been able to gain the support of the whole Afghan nation. It is ready to search for a solution to the problems on the Tajik border area through talks and understanding on the basis of all international law principles, and to eliminate their causes. The Afghan Ministry of Foreign Affairs considers the visit by the Russian parliamentary delegation a blatant violation of the international law principles and an interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan, and expressing its protest does not consider results of this visit fruitful. It considers talks with the armed Afghan opposition under any name as unacceptable and a blatant interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan.

The best way to resolve disputes and to reach the goals of peace and mutual friendship and cooperation are political means in which both sides are interested and state diplomacy based on political realism. [passage indistinct]

Presidential Adviser on Situation of Armed Groups

NC1504122295 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 6 Apr 95 p 12

[FBIS Translated Text] World news section—The disarmament of the groups that are endangering Kabul's security should top the list of the UN's efforts in Afghanistan. Otherwise, this country does not need UN plans.

This was stated in an interview with JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI by Mr. Hashemi Lowlanji, adviser to the president with the status of minister, who was recently in Tehran. He added: Under the current conditions, when a dependent and armed group is threatening the sovereignty of the Afghan Government, it is a deviation to speak about the transition of power. Since the United Nations claims that it wants to establish order and calm in Afghanistan, it is better for it to first silence the aggressor. Meanwhile, Mr. Rabbani's government has opened the door to negotiations with all of Afghanistan's jehadi groups in order to overcome existing problems, in which case there is no need for a foreign plan for Afghanistan, and the jehadi group can determine the future management of the country next door.

Commenting on current developments in Afghanistan and especially on the martyrdom of 'Abd ol-'Ali Mazari, leader of the Islamic Unity Party [IUP], he said: Mr. Mazari's martyrdom, which was perpetrated by hirelings of the Taleban group, was actually a national tragedy for the people of Afghanistan. The subservient Taleban group, whose foreign dependence has been clarified to all the Afghans, has perpetrated many crimes in Afghanistan, the worst of which was the dastardly assassination of martyr Mazari, for whom they initially feigned support and then arrested and martyred after severely torturing him.

Commenting on how the Taleban group was formed, Mr. Lowlanji said: The Taleban group is not a new group. Actually, they are the same subservient and foreign-backed enemies who have unfortunately been mobilized in a different garb by foreign powers against the Afghan Government. The initial blitzkrieg by this group was that it replaced other groups that had taken up positions around Kabul. We have many documents in hand that prove this group's dependence on those abroad. The Talebans never had the strength to occupy Kabul and they only wanted to open a road to Afghanistan's northern borders to serve the economic objectives of their foreign masters.

He added: The current battles around Shindand and Farah Province are actually a futile effort by the Taleban group to achieve this end.

Commenting on the establishment of a government and security in Kabul, Mr. Lowlanji said that following a reshuffle, the Afghan Cabinet is now holding regular meetings to manage the country. By pushing back the Taleban group from around Kabul, security has been established in the city and foreign embassies have stated their readiness to re-open. Also, apart from the areas in which the Taleban group is fomenting troubles, the other areas in Afghanistan and particularly the provinces that are under the control of the jehadi groups are enjoying a good state of security.

He added that Mr. Rabbani's government continues to be in contact with all the jehadi groups in a bid to find a radical solution to the Afghan problem.

In answer to the last question on the situation of the IUP after Mazari's martyrdom, Mr. Lowlanji said: On the basis of an agreement that we had when Mr. Mazari was alive, the party's congress was to be held in the near future. According to the IUP Charter, this congress can deal with all problems, including the election of a new party leader. Therefore, once the congress is held and its binding decisions are adopted, the IUP will be a single party and no other faction that is outside this framework will be legal.

Dostam Reportedly Asks for Talks With Rabbani

LD1604190995 Tehran IRNA in English 1845 GMT 16 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Mashhad (Khorasan), April 16, IRNA—General Abdol Rashid Dostam, the Uzbek militia chief of northern Afghanistan has sent an indirect message to interim President, Borhanoddin Rabbani, calling for talks, Afghan Government sources disclosed here today.

Afghan deputy consul in this holy city, Karimi, however, did not elaborate on the date of the message or its contents, but said the govenment has not responded to Dostam's message so far.

He also dismissed the idea of Dostam's meeting with Rabbani's representative and said the Afghan Government has not dispatched any representative to talk to the militia chief whose forces control parts of northern Afghanistan.

Earlier it was said that a representative of the Afghan president had met with General Dostam in Uzbekistan.

Karimi also said that govenment troops had taken a lot of Taleban forces as prisoners of whom some were foreigners.

India

Reportage on Visit by Iran's Rafsanjani

Speaks With Rao

LD1704190795 Tehran IRNA in English 1759 GMT 17 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] New Delhi, April 17, IRNA—The visitng Iranian president, Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani and the Indian prime minister, Narasimha Rao held their first round of talks here this afternoon. Present at the meeting were Iranian ministers of oil, culture and Islamic guidance as well as culture and higher education as well as their Indian counterparts.

In his speech, President Rafsanjani said that there are numerous grounds for mutual cooperation, adding that the two countries' interests called for proper utilization of common issues. The president also mentioned that the Indian nation's experience will serve properly for other countries which have various nationalities. He also enumerated Iran's progress in the fields of oil, energy, industry, science and technology, transportation, communication, mines, fisheries and metals. Turning to the willingness of the two countries to preserve tranquility in the region and stabilise peace, he mentioned them as good grounds for cooperation between the two countries.

Referring to the role of the Sarakhs-Bafq-Bandar-e 'Abbas railways plays in the communication field in Caucasia and the Far East as well as the important optical fibre project which connects east to the west, the president emphasised that officials from both countries should utilise the atmosphere of friendship and trust which dominates the talks, to draw the two countries together. He also referred to the Persian language and literature as a powerful link for Tehran-New Delhi cooperation.

The Indian prime minister welcomed the Iranian delegation and assured that the visit to New Delhi of President Rafsanjani will bring positive results for the two countries and at world level.

Rao said that the post cold war problem[s] call for further cooperation among developing countries. He added that cooperation with regards to the potential of the developing countries provides suitable grounds for promotion and access to peace and tranquility in these countries.

Reviews Ties With President

BK1804072495 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 18 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] India has extended its friendship to all its neighbors to develop concrete programs of cooperation under the SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] framework. The president, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, made this offer while speaking at a banquet hosted in honor of the visiting Iranian president, Mr. 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, in New Delhi last night. Dr. Sharma made it clear that New Delhi would not tolerate outside interference in its internal affairs. The president reiterated that cordial India-Iran relations will promote peace, prosperity, and security in the region. He said both India and Iran should strive to take advantage of modern science and technology even while seeking to preserve their culture and traditions. The president said deep cultural and historical links between the two countries provide a solid foundation to build a multifaceted modern edifice. Dr. Sharma expressed the hope that Mr. Rafsanjani's visit will provide necessary opportunities for cooperation in many fields.

The external affairs minister, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, called on Mr. Rafsanjani yesterday and discussed issues relating to economic cooperation. Mr. Mukherjee called for setting up joint ventures in both the countries to promote commercial relations. The Iranian foreign minister, 'Ali Akbar Velayati, also met Mr. Mukherjee and the two leaders reviewed various proposals being considered by the Indo-Iranian joint commission. Mr. Mukherjee emphasized cooperation in oil and railway sectors. The Petroleum minister, Captain Satish Sharma, and the Iranian petroleum minister, Mr. Gholam Reza Aqazadeh-Kho'i, held discussions to strengthen cooperation in the oil sector.

Commentary on NPT Stance, UN Conference

Article Supports Policy

BK1704092495 Delhi NAVBHARAT TIMES in Hindi 15 Apr 95 p 1

[Article by Mukul Vyas: "The Nuclear Arsenal Increases Despite the NPT"]

[FBIS Translated Text] India will not be participating in the New York conference to review the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT]. India's policy regarding this treaty is very clear. India favors saving the world totally from the hazards of nuclear weapons and, in its opinion, to achieve this aim, the treaty should be drafted through peaceful negotiations in such a way as to be totally nondiscriminatory, multilateral, and universally enforceable. India regards the existing treaty to be discriminatory since it charges the nuclear powers with much less responsibility than it does the nonnuclear countries.

It is owing to its blatantly discriminatory format and other inherent flaws that India refused to sign this treaty. The confession by Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto during her recent U.S. visit that her country was installing a new nuclear reactor has proved conclusively the inability of the NPT to prevent the clandestine transfer of nuclear technology and nuclear material. Thus, the doubts raised by India regarding the effectiveness of the treaty have been clearly confirmed.

Pakistan is installing her new atomic reactor in Khushab, in Punjab Province. This reactor will give Pakistan the option of making a nuclear bomb using plutonium and will increase her strike capacity tremendously. According to the military experts, plutonium can be used in making small nuclear weapons that can be easily launched at a target with missiles. U.S. intelligence sources believe Pakistan possesses at least 10 nuclear bombs at present. In Pakistan's nuclear program, the illegal purchase of nuclear material and clandestine transfer of nuclear technology plays a major part.

For these reasons, India opposes the unconditional and sine die extension of the terms of the treaty. On the other hand, Pakistan favors an extension of the treaty. Its plea is that any wavering in the consensus regarding the NPT would have a pernicious influence on the balance and stability of the general international situation. What is interesting in the context is the fact that the author of this plea, Pakistan, has still not signed the treaty itself. In the Middle East, Israel and Egypt are embroiled in a sharp dispute over this treaty. Israel has declared in clear terms that with Iran's and Libya's nuclear ambitions soaring high, it would certainly not sign the treaty; whereas Egypt says it would sign the treaty only if Israel agreed to do so. However, wilting somewhat under pressure from Washington, Egypt has given indications of a slight thaw in its stand.

To garner support and create a conducive atmosphere to have the treaty extended interminably and unconditionally, the nuclear countries have declared certain measures. These countries, through a statement issued separately, have declared that they would not use nuclear weapons against the non-nuclear countries that choose to sign the treaty. According to diplomatic observers, the nuclear countries' assurances are quite equivocal. Only China expressed some forthrightness in her assurance. It said that under no circumstances would it be the first to launch nuclear weapons against an adversary.

During the Geneva meeting of these nuclear countries, a draft was prepared to include these security assurances, which the Security Council accepted unanimously. The proposed resolution avers that if any of the non-nuclear countries that are signatories to the treaty face a nuclear attack, the nuclear countries, on the instructions from the Security Council, would take "the necessary steps" to help the afflicted country. Since all the five nuclear countries are permanent members of the Security Council, vested with the power of veto, any assurance given by any permanent member against a nuclear attack has no significance. The observers opine that the basic purpose of these positive or negative assurances by the nuclear countries is only to pressure those countries not willing to sign the NPT and prevent those signatories who want to get away from the treaty from doing so.

India has opposed the Security Council resolution that is based upon the assurances given by the nuclear countries, calling it blatantly discriminatory. A mere assurance of security given by countries in a special category does not present any prospects for permanent peace. The only way a security guarantee against the possible use or threat to use nuclear weapons can be ensured is by preparing a legally-enforceable international code of conduct to totally eradicate nuclear weapons. Calling the security assurances given by the nuclear powers as half-hearted measures, India has underlined the bitter fact that these assurances also point to a gruesome possibility. By giving these assurances, do the nuclear countries not want to impress upon the GATT-members of the NPT that the latter are free to launch their nuclear weapons against the non-member countries?— now there are much more atomic weapons in the world than there were at the time when the treaty was signed. What could be more convincing evidence of the utter failure of the treaty? The existing NPT is based upon the old concept that the technical difference between the peaceful use of atomic energy and its military use could be brought under check by a supervisory body, but this difference is so fluid and feeble that it is impossible to prevent one country from transferring nuclear material to another country desirous of getting it. This is the reason why the International Atomic Energy Agency is unable to effectively devise a supervisory system to control nuclear nonproliferation.

According to the provisions of this treaty, deployment of nuclear weapons by the nuclear countries on the soil of a non-nuclear country is not prohibited. There is no provision either to effectively control the transfer of information pertaining to nuclear development. That the NPT has failed to stop the flow of nuclear material from the nuclear countries to the non-nuclear countries is apparent from the nuclear programs of Pakistan, Iraq, North Korea, Israel, and South Africa. All these countries received nuclear technology, equipment, spare parts, and vital information from countries that were bound by their pledge under the NPT not to render any help to the countries striving to acquire nuclear weapons. This strange treaty forgives the real culprit for nuclear proliferation and tries to exercise control over those countries having no nuclear weapons! France and Germany have been merrily exporting nuclear material for a very long time, with the United States and Russia not far behind in this activity. However, these countries are never questioned about their deliberate indulgence in nuclear proliferation.

Moreover, the NPT, by enforcing nuclear discriminaton in international relations, has almost granted a validity to nuclear weapons. Looking to the huge atomic arsenal belonging to the nuclear powers, the irrelevance of the NPT is self-evident. The issue of nuclear nonproliferation is inseparably linked with disarmament, but since disarmament is not in the interests of the super powers, they insist more on nuclear nonproliferation and less on disarmament.

Article Questions Policy

BK1704120495 Delhi THE PIONEER in English 16 Apr 95 p 7

[Article by G.S. Bhargava: "What is wrong with India's nuclear policy"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] What is wrong with India's NPT (nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty) policy? More pertinently, what is right about it? In fact, what is the policy? This may sound as an esoteric vedantic discourse but the truth is that with the best effort in the world one cannot make out what India really wants in respect of the Treaty.

For the past several weeks, as if to herald the Review and Extension Conference beginning tomorrow, there has been a veritable avalanche of writings in the newspapers by experts and ex-experts (retired Indian foreign and administrative service officers who make up for the conformism of their careers by an excessive display of verbal bravado) dinning into our ears, day in and day out, that the Treaty is discriminatory and therefore, India will not subscribe to it. Good.

But nobody expects India to join it; the US Defence Secretary, Mr William Perry, is on record that India (in the august company of Israel and Pakistan) will not sign the NPT and that the US and others have not been exerting themselves in that direction. The irony is that like a petulant child, the South Block [External Affairs Ministry] establishment seems to be hushed with its own importunities and feels neglected by not being asked to join the NPT. This is also called self-pity. I think.

If, as claimed by an opinion poll, 92 percent of middle-class men respondents are for India exercising its "nuclear option" to signify its rejection of the NPT and if the international community by and large is reconciled to India keeping out of it, why should we be preached ad nauseam about the inequitable aspects of the Treaty and repeatedly reassured that India will not join it?

There have been others, notably France and China, which had stayed out for nearly two decades because it did not suit their perceived national interests at that time, although the Treaty has bestowed on them in absentia the status of nuclear weapon states (NWS). But both countries had informally conformed to the provisions of the Treaty and when the international security system underwent a basic change following the end of the cold war formally entered the Treaty.

At another level, Israel which regards the NPT safeguards system inadequate for plugging what it sees as loopholes—particularly in the context of the security situation in the Middle East—says the time is not ripe for its subscribing to the Treaty. Its suave Foreign Minister, Mr Shim 'on Peres, said so recently in response to the Egyptian demand for Israel joining the NPT as a precondition for its support for indefinite extension of the Treaty. But Tel Aviv does not conceal its stake in nonproliferation and the extension of the NPT as an instrument of the objective, however imperfect.

As for our neighbour, Pakistan, the nuclear status of which is circumstantial—it has no weapons of mass destruction when Washington has to be cajoled into resuming military assistance but is capable enough to threaten India with a nuclear war if Kashmir is not surrendered—its policy is simple—being reactive.

It will not sign the NPT as long as India does not do so. It is no big loss either to the NPT system or to India—from the security point of view. Its nuclear weapon capability is more make-believe than real and India can live with it, especially in the changed international context of the world community being assured of India living up to the provisions of the Treaty without formally subscribing to it.

As a status quo power, whatever be the rhetoric exuded by experts, India's security interests are served by the number of nuclear weapon states being manageably small, seven or eight, and by countries prone to nuclear adventurism, notably Iran and Iraq, not gaining access to dual-use fission technology. It is a tall order but crucial for the international security system as we have known it in the last half century. Those who have had experience of patronage and promotion by these countries—and their like-minded in our neighbourhood—of trans-border terrorism can imagine what it means if they have weapons of mass destruction also to dispense with.

Since Iraq and North Korea have not been constrained by their formal adherence to the NPT from trying to acquire and develop weapon-capability, a more intrusive type of safeguards system under the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has to be evolved for exceptional circumstances. In other words, the prevailing universally applicable safeguards system will have to be changed, which will make the NPT and its operation more discriminatory—but it will be in keeping with the spirit and purpose of curbing the spread of nuclear weapons.

India has to make the choice between wallowing in academic scoring of points against the US and other NWS as if the NPT is their monopoly and joining the world community in the interest of an ultimately nuclear weapons free world, a concept voiced by the Prime Minister, P. V. Narasimha Rao, and President Bill Clinton, during the former's visit to Washington last year. A declaratory commitment by the NWS for elimination of nuclear weapons, even if gradually, will be psychologically satisfying but not getting them to acknowledge the consummation does not detract from the merit of the NPT and its extension.

After all it is the only hedge against the spread of nuclear weapons, with more than 170 members of the UN subscribing to it. One has to build on its moral force and not fritter it away.

The foregoing is not starry-eyed idealism represented by the mind set of leaders like Mahatma Gandhi and Mikhail Gorbachev but hard-nosed pragmatism which even a Ronald Reagan or Boris Yeltsin can realise. From India's point of view, it is a source of security if China's nuclear weapons arsenal is subject to constraints of growth and accountability. Its adherence to the NPT albeit at the penultimate stage is welcome because even as a nuclear weapon-state it is formally within the international system.

If niggardly extension of the life of the NPT affects the factors which made China and France joint the Treaty as claimed it will not be in India's interest because even with the so-called weapon-option open India cannot match China in the development and delivery of nuclear missiles. Breast-beating at the US for its resistance to Indian deployment of untested medium-range ballistic missiles does not alter the facts of life. We have lived since practically 1964 with China's weapon-capability and its steady growth and can do so in the future.

Despite its reputation to the contrary, China has been a stickler to the NPT regime—even if informally—and has not indulged in adventurism. In the 1970s when Colonel al-Qadhdhafi approached Beijing for a ready-to-use nuclear weapon in return for a pot of gold, metaphorically, Mao Zedong politely told him that it was a capability to be indigenously developed and not bought off the shelf.

The US, British and German business interests which sold weapons usable equipment and material to Pakistan and Iraq, among others, lacked such concern for humanity. So, it is unlikely that China has transferred weapons technology to Pakistan: the sale of M-11 missiles is a different matter.

A former foreign secretary of India was confidently declaring some time ago that North Korea was not capable of fabricating nuclear weapons and that it was an American bogey to hoodwink the world and force the NPT down the throats of nations feeling naked without weapon-capability.

The cussedness and worse of Washington and others does not affect the merits and demerits of the international treaty which is as much India's as it is of other UN members. One cannot practise nonviolent non-cooperation with the international system. One has to get into it and play the game, may be with a better moral record than that of the US and other nuclear weapon states.

At the 1990 NPT Review Conference in Geneva countries like Sri Lanka and Indonesia played a key role in projecting the point of view of the bulk of the nations, whether it was quickening the pace of arms reduction or conclusion of a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, while India was sulking in the tent, humming the worn-out tune about the discriminatory nature of the NPT. The then Janata Dal Government was in a mood to send official observers to the conference but Inder Kumar Gujral had allowed himself to be swayed by the so-called experts and South Block diehards who identify mouthing platitudes with diplomacy.

Now, the new External Affairs Minister, Pranab Mukherjee has made the amazing statement that since India is against the indefinite extension of the NPT it will not have observers at the ensuing New York conference where retired IFS [Indian Foreign Service] officers as non-official experts will repeat the theme song. If this is India's policy towards proliferation of nuclear weapons God save our future generations.

Iran

KEYHAN: Clinton Using 'Force, Intimidation'

LD1604130295 Tehran IRNA in English 1252 GMT 16 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, April, 16, IRNA—A morning daily Sunday [16 April] noted that what Clinton is actually trying to do is to consolidate U.S. 'interests' in Iran's neighborhood while laying siege to the Islamic Republic and subjecting our nation to force and intimidation.

Referring to the more tougher economic sanctions against Iran imposed by the U.S. President Bill Clinton to destabilize the Tehran Government, the English-language KEYHAN international said that Clinton's anti-Iran program typifies the paranoia into which his administration descends when faced with Iranian realities rooted in Islam and principles of mutual respect.

It also underlined that with the exception of the Zionist entity, post-war Iran is up front in maintaining normal and cordial ties with the international community without compromising on its principles.

"Given the culture of international relations and instruments of global trade, American leaders are making a mockery of themselves and whatever little is left of their self-proclaimed superpower status," the article stated.

"Perpetual confrontation with Islamic Iran and inviting sovereign states to do likewise only reinforces the view that bill lacks focus on issues of world significance and that his lieutenants are giving him their own impression of events which normally does not coincide with realities on the ground," it stressed.

Clinton's predecessors also made a mess of their Iran policy, the paper said adding that, the bias is there for everybody to see and its insistence to keep on with the Iranian harassment program despite changes in regional landscapes can best be described as ludicrous.

"Iran is determined in its objective to maintain regional peace and stability as an indivisable whole," it said concluding that, Clinton of Whitewater 'fame' will be doing the world a big favor if he stops giving lessons in statemanship, morality and politics.

Emami-Kashani Sermon on 'Futile' U.S. Acts

LD1404171695 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1110 GMT 14 Apr 95

[Second Friday sermon by Ayatollah Mohammad Emami-Kashani, spokesman of the Guardian Council, at Tehran University on 14 April—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [passage omitted]

I want to talk about several issues in the second sermon: Army Day, the statement by the esteemed president [criticizing the United States], and some other small issues. Since I raised the issue of rumor in my discussion about ethics, here I follow it with a few sentences about the esteemed president's statement.

Our great nation has heard the statement. But we must ask ourselves what has happened? What is going on? Why is America so angry? The economic sanctions, sanctions against deals—it has told its companies not to deal with Iran, and so forth—what is the going on? What is it that has made America so angry, the important point at issue? This is the point: Thus far they thought that the Islamic system would be destroyed by the imposition of the [Iran-Iraq] war; they thought that by encouraging Iraq against Iran they would disrupt things [in Iran]. And other acts, other pressures, economic problems. [Then] they saw nothing happened. They had hoped that Iran's economy would bite the dust after the war and not raise its head again and through that make the people despondent, undermine their confidence, separate them from the revolution; but they saw that it failed. There was 22 Bahman [11 February, revolution day], with that tremendous spectacle and rally.

The progeny of the imam, Hajj Ahmad Khomeyni, may God be satisfied with him, passed away and there was that great funeral. They saw that the nation is not separate from the state officials. A crucial point came into being, an issue came about in the country which they never thought would happen: the economic structure of the country came right, thanks be to God. And that is very important. Those who read history, the history of Japan, the history of Germany, Europe after the [World] War ...[pauses]... When you study [history] you see how Europe was after the war, what Japan was after the war, what Germany was. Many books have been written; what inflation in Japan, what inflation in Germany and in other European countries! Disruption in the economic system, disruption in the monetary system, great fluctuations in prices. It is written about Japan that after World War II...[pauses]...despite America's large aid to Europe—I should refer to [figures] but what comes to my mind is $17 billion—despite America's aid [when] Europe embarked on reconstruction of the devastation its people lived in abject poverty. The European nation suffered sever food shortages; that is in history. It is recorded what inflation there was; how many marks a German had to pay to buy a meal. European currency became that worthless.

But there were two differences between the Islamic Republic and Europe after the war from an economic point of view. One was that America paid money [to Europe], but Iran did not hold out its hand and declared that it did not want any money; it did not accept the burden [of debt]. That is one difference.

The second one—which is very important—was that Europe was seeking to regain what it had lost in the war, but Iran said we must regain what we lost [during the war] plus what the former kings destroyed in the country. There was no economy, there were no roads, there were no dams, there was no technology; it was a totally devastated country which was the result of what the kings did to it, particularly during the rule of that father and son [Pahlavi dynasty], those blackguards. That is what they did to the country. And now! The government has created all these great projects; all that dam building, all that railway [construction].

The trouble with some of our people is that...[sentence unfinished] Of course let me tell you that when the government embarked on that [reconstruction], it had noticed that the Iranian nation does endure, and to be fair the people have endured. And our nation will endure just a little bit more despite the anger of the [world] arrogance. The point is that for some of our people it must be explained what their enduring of such high prices is paying for. It must explained that what they are paying for when they endure these high prices—is the price of the country's reconstruction, the infrastructure of the state. That is, the country will be wealthy and independent for always, God willing. It will be a country which does not import much. Not only will it move gradually toward not importing anything or importing very little, but also toward exporting. That is the government policy.

Once a foreign magazine published an article against the president. In short the article said that Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, with with his ambitions regarding economic issues, has put his nation under pressure. Then a few sentences later the article said that despite the pressures and ambitions it is freeing itself from the West, from America, and giving the country economic independence. [crowd chants "God is great," "Khamene'i is the leader," "Death to counterrevolutionaries," "Death to America"]

The enemy now realizes this fact. A number of my friends have telephoned me from Germany to say that about a month ago the German television showed a discussion program saying that the Iranian government had been successful in the first five years, and should it succeed in the second five years, the world, in particular the West, would have no option but to support Iran. I have asked these friends to send me a video tape of that program. Germany and some other countries, such as Japan, have now reached the conclusion that they must support Iran. This is because they see Iran is standing on its own two feet. These facts are all due to the thinking behind the government's economic policies.

I do not mean to say that some of the high prices cannot be brought under control. Naturally some high prices can be remedied, and the government is indeed taking care of these areas. What I am referring to is the general process seen as a whole, which I believe ought to be explained and clarified in a better way so that people may know what it is that they are paying the price for. They should know where the country's future is heading and what their duties are.

A certain gentleman writes and says to the president that although you say this and that, are you really aware of this and that fact? The answer to this is that after all, must this and that project be implemented at all or not? Should people be allowed to spend the revenues and then remain poor and homeless, as they have been for centuries now, or should things be constructed? [as heard]

I do not claim that there are no problems. For instance, in relation to the recent rise in the price of gasoline, surely the officials responsible for this increase should have announced months ago that no one should be allowed to increase transport fares. Instead we saw that from 1 Farvardin [21 March], fares doubled, leading to dissatisfaction among some people.

Of course, there are some complacencies among some junior circles. There might be bribery and other offenses in some of these circles. Unfortunately, high prices and the accumulation of wealth and similar ugly trends exist in the nature of some of our people, who are only after money even at the expense of sucking other people's blood. There are instances of sins and acts of treason among some corrupt-minded members of our society. In our political system too, there are some individuals who might show complacency, lack due care, or accept bribes.

The argument however is about the direction the country is heading, and what is to become of it. The main subject is what the president and his government have done. This is what the people should be fully aware of. [passage omitted]

In summary then, as his excellency Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani said, America does not really know Iran at all. If it knew anything about Iran and the Iranian nation, then it would not act in this way. Right now, it is committing futile acts by being angry and furious, while the Islamic system, with all its magnificence and splendor, and with its reliance on God and the kind attentions of the Lord of the Age [12th Shiite imam], is moving forward and paving the way for the advent of the Lord himself, God Willing. [crowd chants in support]

Armed Forces Day is on 29 Farvardin [18 April]. [passage omitted] The army now enjoys a status such that the honorable leader of the revolution, the country's officials, and our great nation believe in it, trust in it, and feel confident about it. The reason for that is that the army now consists of the children of the revolution and a revolutionary generation. The army, the [Revolution] Guards, and all of the armed forces will rise up if, God forbid, any threat is posed against the country. The country currently enjoys a cohesive, devoted and vigilant military and security force. They are awake and vigilant, and so is the whole nation, as I mentioned in the first sermon. Our country and our nation know the enemy and its ploys and know where the country is heading. The more arrogant, the more wealthy, the more powerful and the more deceitful the enemy; the more awake, the more vigilant, the more devoted our nation, and the nation's love for the honorable leader of the revolution and the country's officials increases further and further. They [enemies] should realize that fact.

The White House and world arrogance would stop their reactive measures if they understood the nature of the Islamic revolution and the awareness of the Iranian nation. [passage omitted]

Clinton 'Childish' on Russian Nuclear Ties

LD1604073095 Tehran IRNA in English 0710 GMT 16 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, April 16, IRNA—A morning daily in its editorial Sunday [16 April] termed as "childish" the reaction of the U.S. President Bill Clinton to Russia's firm position on continuing nuclear cooperation with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Referring to Clinton's remarks aired on CNN, the english-language daily TEHRAN TIMES asked, "why would Clinton make such rash remarks and take such a position?"

The answer, it noted, is in what is by now a historical enmity of the leaders of Democratic Party with Iran. They have yet to forget that the problems with Iran paved the ground for Jimmy Carter's defeat in 1980 elections and hence 12 consecutive years of Republican domination in Washintgton.

The paper further wrote, "for those psycholinguists interested in the discussion of repressed emotions vented out in an inappropriate moment, Clinton's statement provides an excellent case study.

"The first part of statement clearly shows Bill Clinton's actual intention to deny Iran everything: dignity, nationhood, independence, progress and scientific advancement," the article continued.

It added that the second part is some sort of hopeless apology showing his frustration took the best of him and made him say things that he surely must have regretted.

"Iran is a vast country which is home to a handful of ancient civilizations that will survive into the 21st century," the paper stressed, adding that "Clinton needs to do some reading on the history of Iran, both recent and ancient, and contemplate how his lack of understanding about a nation that has withstood the test of time will cause him, and his administration, another disgrace such as the one that befell Jimmy Carter."

"Thanks to its vast resources, its educated class and the passion of its youth to find their place in the sun, this nation will prosper, and will have, much to the chagrin of Bill Clinton, everything legal under the international law, including the peaceful use of the nuclear technology," it concluded.

Brazilian Magazine on Possible Uranium Diversion

PY1404185195 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1616 GMT 14 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Brasilia, 14 Apr (EFE)—In its latest issue which will hit the stands on 15 April, the magazine ISTOE reports that a ship carrying 200 tonnes of enriched uranium, which was part of the Brazilian stock, disappeared while it was sailing from Brazil to Canada.

ISTOE reports that the uranium was shipped on board a Brazilian vessel that sailed from Brazil late last year but never reached its alleged destination; namely, Toronto, Canada.

The magazine notes that both Brazilian and U.S. officials fear the uranium may have been diverted to Iran.

The ISTOE report adds that the uranium was sent as a "loan" to a Canadian company under a contract signed by Brazil and the North American country through the mediation of a Swiss firm.

The missing uranium was extracted from the mines of Pocos de Caldas, Goias State, and was under the administration of the Brazilian Nuclear Industries, which is subordinated to the Strategic Affairs Secretariat, an office having ministerial rank.

ISTOE also reports that the Canadian company that was supposed to receive the shipment does not exist and that the Swiss company acting as an intermediary has gone bankrupt.

U.S. intelligence services have information proving that the shipment went to Iran, which, according to the U.S. Government, is believed to be developing a project that would enable it to construct a nuclear bomb.

The alleged disappearance of the shipment of 200 tonnes of enriched uranium has been reported on the eve of the first official visit to the United States by Brazilian President Fernando Henrique Cardoso.

Cardoso, who was inaugurated on 1 January, is scheduled—among other activities—to meet with his U.S. counterpart, Bill Clinton.

Cardoso will begin a three-day visit to the United States on 17 April.

Daily Cited on CIA Request for Budget Approval

LD1504132695 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1140 GMT 15 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The newspaper JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI, in an article on page 11 entitled: "America's Policy Towards Iran, A Corrupt and Dishonorable Policy," which cites German Radio, describes U.S. aims in its propaganda campaign against Iran's peaceful use of the nuclear energy. The newspaper concludes that: the United States' main aim in its propaganda campaign is to pave the way for Israel's refusal to sign the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

In an article entitled: "America, a Spiteful and Isolated State" in a column devoted to political comments, the newspaper JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI also refers to the CIA's request for the approval of a budget to continue its activities against the Islamic Republic of Iran, and writes: The request opens a new chapter in efforts for relieving the obsessions of the U.S. rulers in their hostility towards the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Paper Discusses Cancellation of Conoco Agreement

NC1404162595 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 6 Apr 95 pp 1, 15

[Commentary by Mohammad Kazem Anbarlu'i: "What Answer Does the Oil Minister Have?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the second half of the month of Esfand [21 March-21 April] last year an agreement was signed to develop the Sirri oilfields between the National Iranian Oil company and the American firm Conoco.

After it was signed the agreement became one of the most controversial oil agreements of its kind. Conoco had announced that the White House knew of the agreement but the U.S. Congress and Administration adopted a very harsh stance on the issue. With the outcry becoming public, the White House officially announced: The signing of the Conoco agreement does not contravene the prevailing U.S. laws but goes against the current U.S. policy of exerting pressure on the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The U.S. President also took a controversial step by issuing a charter addressed to U.S. companies in which U.S. companies and individuals were warned against investing in oil-related development and construction projects. Following Clinton's directive, Conoco announced it would not adhere to the contract it signed.

Some important points should be noted in this regard:

1. Since Conoco had announced that the White House knew of the agreement, the question arises: Why did the U.S. Administration not prevent Conoco from going ahead and signing it? This indicates a planned scenario for a display of strength along with a declaration of hostile intent.

2. The company's performance was most suspicious as it transpired that the United States was seeking a pretext for overshadowing the pressure it was exerting against Islamic Iran. To elicit the cooperation of all its allies it needed a sensational issue, and the nature of the agreement provided the best pretext. If the Americans wish to extend the sphere of their hostility by prohibiting investment in the development of oil and gas, they should apply this ban to all oil transactions as well as a complete trade boycott so that it may become clear that the Conoco agreement was not a mere trap.

3. It is not known why, in circumstances when our heroic nation considers the United States its number one enemy and raises slogans of "Death to America" as a national and popular slogan and when the United States has spared no efforts to display its animosity for the Iranian nation, the National Iranian Oil Company should so easily accept an international tender and discuss the quantitative and qualitative aspects of the agreement at such length!

Does the oil minister believe the United States is a reliable trading partner? With our perception of the bellicose nature of U.S. policies, how did the oil minister give himself the right to enter into this trap, a trap on which the enemy capitalized in this manner? The Islamic Republic of Iran was projected as being interested in commercial relations with the Americans and it was as if they were the ones rejecting these relations!

We should review all our oil sales with U.S. companies before it is too late. The reputation of the Islamic Revolution and the Islamic Republic of Iran was not achieved or protected so easily that it might be toyed with on the pretexts of economic gain!

Muslims rose up on the basis of this revolution and their manly resistance before the United States and the powers of world arrogance. They selflessly stake their lives to keep the banner of the Islamic government flying over their country. How did you forget the irreconcilable stance of the great leader and the valiant people of Iran with regard to the United States?

4. After the abrogation of this accord, Oil Minister Aqazadeh said: Iran does not need this agreement and there are many other applicants that can replace Conoco. (footnote: oil minister's radio interview reported on 10 April 1994]

The question is that, if there is such a possibility, why did we sign an agreement with an American company? Is this one of those instances when only Americans could provide these services?

5. Iran's capabilities are such that we have 70 years of experience in every aspect of the oil industry regarding production, extraction, and so on, which are not hidden from anyone. The esteemed oil minister and other officials in the Petroleum Ministry have repeatedly stressed, asking the following in view of these capabilities: Can we not stand on our own two feet instead of succumbing to such agreements?

6. This feuding by the U.S. Administration and Congress sounds an alarm bell that should make us reappraise our commercial relations with Washington. At the beginning of last year, in an editorial by Ahmad Tavakkoli (footnote: 10 April 1994), commercial relations with the United States were scolded vehemently.

Last night VOA announced that the White House was assessing ways and means to extend the commercial embargo against Iran. The U.S. press mentions drafts of such plans, which envisage a ban on the sale of advanced technology and a ban on the purchase of oil from Iran, inter alia.

It appears that the Petroleum Ministry and some of the government bodies are too simple and lax with regard to commercial relations between Iran and the United States. God forbid, the harmful effects of this attitude will emerge. The question is: Have the various dimensions of the issue been studied and have we made a correct analysis of the political and economic repercussions?

Judiciary Sets Up Islamic Human Rights Committee

LD1504103695 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 15 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Ayatollah Mohammad 'Ali Yazdi, head of the Judiciary Power, in an announcement today, said: An Islamic Human Rights Committee has been set up in the judiciary with the aim of promoting and explaining Islamic human rights and preventing the violation of human rights.

Speaking at an international news conference this morning, Yazdi explained the procedures of the Islamic Human Rights Committee and said: The committee will have close cooperation with world human rights forums, and its objectives are prevention of Islamic human rights violation in the world and the global promotion of human rights. [passage omitted]

Yazdi on Rights Group, U.S. National Mayer

LD1504190995 Tehran IRNA in English 1843 GMT 15 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, April 15, IRNA—Head of the judiciary, Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi said here on Saturday [15 April] that Islamic human rights commission will start functioning in Iran this year.

In a press conference attended by Iranian and foreign journalists, he said in most instances the commission will work according to the general approval of the United Nations and the Islamic human rights body.

The work of the said commission is to hear reports on human rights violation from people and take action to prevent any possible violation, he added.

Ayatollah Yazdi said the human rights commission will include five committees to prevent and follow up any cases in this regard.

He said the highest organ of the Islamic human rights commission is the supreme policy making council comprising of two lawyers and two judges, while the head of the judiciary will attend the commission as an observer.

Yazdi said a new law has gone into effect in 231 courts and that it will be observed in the entire 295 courts throughout the country from next month onwards.

Asked whether the incident in (?Eslamshahr) two weeks ago was pre-planned, Ayatollah Yazdi said it was a trifling matter rooted in weak administration in the town and that some officials were reprimanded for poor management. He said the people living in the town are mostly workers and use public transport and that minibus drivers had increased the charge for each person to 150 rials from 100 rials. People could not afford the extra pay. On the other hand there was shortage of drinking water. The factors mentioned above led to the state of agitation in the town, he said.

According to Yazdi some arrests were made, but, most of those arrested were freed the same night or day.

He said such incidents are normal and not absolutely premeditated. Similar incidents have happened in the past in Iran and abroad, he added.

Questioned by the Japanese T.V. correspondent on the suicide committed by Dr. Latif Zahedi, a lawyer, for not receiving licence of attorney, he said giving such a licence has its own legal procedure. The Association of Lawyers in all provinces is entitled to authorize the transfer of a lawyer from one province to the other.

Asked about a delay in removal of satellite dishes from rooftops, he said the Majlis has approved the removal of satellite antennas and there was no change of mind in this respect.

Asked by AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE (AFP) on the status of U.S. national Melton Mayer, who has been sentenced to 18 months of imprisonment on espionage charges, the judiciary chief said that according to law prisoners often benefit from commutation of sentence or amnesty.

To a question from the KUWAITI NEWS AGENCY that an Iraqi citizen arrested in Pakistan in connection with the bombing of the New York trade centre was also involved in the bombing of the holy shrine of Imam Reza (as) in Mashhad, he said the case of the Mashhad sacrilege was being dealt by the Islamic Revolutionary Court and was almost finalized.

However, the claim of the arrested person in Pakistan depends upon interrogation, and if Iran and Pakistan had an extradition treaty, the case would be followed up, added the ayatollah.

Asked by the Italian news agency asked [as received] whether the European Union as reported by JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI newspaper, has said that Iran will not be given any concession unless it formally withdraws support from anyone planning to kill Salman Rushdie, Ayatollah Yazdi said that time and again Iran has announced that the problem of sentenced apostate Salman Rushdie was a religious issue and that the enemies raise the issue every now and then for political purposes.

Yazdi Sermons on Hajj Disavowal, Economy, U.S.

LD0704193295

[FBIS Editorial Report] Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian at

1030 GMT on 7 April broadcasts a 70-minute recording of the Friday sermons delivered at Tehran University earlier the same day by Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi, head of the judiciary.

The first sermon focuses on family issues and the duties of parents. In the second sermon Yazdi comments and elaborates on recent remarks by Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i and President Hashemi-Rafsanjani on the individual's obligation to society and government employees' and managers' obligations to the country.

Ayatollah Yazdi begins the second sermon by referring to Ayatollah Khamene'i's recent remarks on the need for social and economic discipline. Yazdi criticizes some people for having excessive demands and says that the economic condition of all the people has improved compared to the period before the revolution.

Yazdi says: "If we want to look at the issue of economic restructuring from a higher point of view and to study the slogan about economic discipline.... [pauses] I will say a few sentences here, but a discussion of this issue is not within my capability. A country which has staged a revolution, whose principles have been transformed, and whose values have been changed, should base its economy—like the rest of its principles—on Islam.

"Since the revolution all of us have witnessed, and are still witnessing, different and contradictory trends, especially in economic issues. We have reached a point that is somewhat brighter than before. If a country wants to become properly organized, if it wants to have principles, if it wants to be run according to the rule of law—this cannot be done in one or two days. This will naturally take many years.

"The first Five-Year Economic Plan is producing its results. Each day we see that some of the positive consequences of the First Plan are bearing fruit. In fact, the threads of dependency upon aliens and foreigners are being cut, and the country is gradually moving toward a point where it can run itself. This is naturally a difficult task, and it is natural that there are other difficulties in our path. Under such conditions, if this country wants its entire economy to be based on principles, it is natural that it should pursue precise long-term plans."

Yazdi continues: "We look forward to the Second Plan. The honorable Majles has approved it and confirmed it under the guidelines of the esteemed leader [Khamene'i], and the honorable government will gradually implement it, God willing.

"Under such conditions, should we find fault because of some minor issues and should we put a question mark on everything, or even engage in some unruly actions, God forbid? The judiciary system of the country, which has shown readiness and has acted in the past, is also ready today and has a commitment to confront decisively and according to law everyone who disrupts the social order, who disrupts the national economy, and who disrupts the management of the country? [crowd chants slogans] This is a very extensive discussion, and it may not even be within my capability. At the moment, there is not much time to discuss it."

Yazdi then discusses the upcoming hajj (pilgrimage) to Mecca. In this regard he says: "The most comprehensive and complete statements made by the exalted leader (Khamene'i) and the topics he mentioned, the spirit of worship and obedience to God can be seen right across hajj rites more than any prayers and worship. The second issue (concerning the hajj) is the unity of the Islamic ummah and the disavowal of the infidels which is the natural component of hajj and part and parcel of hajj. Bearing in mind the complete and comprehensive statements (by Khamene'i) there remains nothing to say but to call on the hajj officials to naturally spend all their time and do their utmost for the best implementation of that religio-political rite (disavowal of infidels) and take the beloved people and hajj pilgrims of this country to hajj with pride—which they always have enjoyed. All those who are related to this issue will be giving their services at the highest level.

"And the Saudi rulers must bear in mind that it is their religious duty to put the necessary facilities at the disposal of various denominations which arrive for carrying out the hajj rites so that they can carry out those rites in which they believe and seek to perform. (They should) not have an irrational and illogical approach to those things that are in the context of hajj."

Yazdi goes on to express sorrow for the passing away of Ahmad Khomeyni and to praise the performance of the Law Enforcement Force during the new year period. He then turns to U.S. "propaganda" against Iran. On this he says:

"America's most extensive propaganda—the westerners', and particularly America's—according to some official assessments the volume of propaganda has increased by 80 percent—this is based on the axes of the same lies as before. One is astonished that even the secretary of defense of a powerful country which considers itself to be a superpower should make a statement contrary to the truth and reality or—to put it more frankly—lies and propaganda loudspeakers which naturally are included in their paraphernalia pursue them. Mainly there are the issues of mass destruction weapons, nuclear weapons, and opposition to those who want to do economic work with us.

"The propaganda was at a very high level, the latest of which you have probably heard or read about. Mr. Clinton, personally, after his meeting with the president of one of the Arab states, in his news conference, says that we are trying to cooperate about mass destruction weapons in the Middle East region as well as the peace process and bring them to fruition. I am astonished how a person like him, and in that post, can close his eyes and make those remarks."

Yazdi concludes by discussing an Arab press article about Israel's nuclear weapons and the situation in the Palestinian self- rule area.

President Rafsanjani Travels to India for Talks

NC1804090995 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0345 GMT 18 Apr 95

[Commentary by the News Research and Commentary Group]

[FBIS Translated Text] Hashemi-Rafsanjani, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, who arrived yesterday in New Delhi, the Indian capital, held his first round of talks with Indian Prime Minister Narasimha Rao, in the presence of several ministers of both countries. Iran's ministers of foreign affairs, petroleum, culture and Islamic guidance, and culture and higher education and their Indian counterparts were present at the talks. This, in itself, speaks of the determination of the two large Asian countries—Iran and India—to cooperate in various fields and in a broad spectrum of issues ranging from economic to cultural.

The visit by the president of the Islamic Republic of Iran to India is the first official visit of its kind and on this level since the victory of the Islamic Revolution in Iran. Although the basis for extensive relations between Iran and India are very favorable, they have common and extremely close historic and cultural ties, binding them since ancient times. The immense potentials of the two countries have not yet been sufficiently used to jointly assist the economic development of both countries, despite existing cooperation. The visit by our president and the delegation accompanying him creates the opportunity to view the future of the two countries' relations from a broader perspective. These two big Asian countries, each an axis of peace and stability in its part of the continent, may become a new axis of peace, friendship, and cooperation together, far from the domination of foreign powers.

It is said that during our president's visit to India, six agreements, including the construction of a gas pipeline from Iran to India, the transit of Indian trade via Iranian territory to Central Asia, and the control of drug trafficking, are to be signed. Nevertheless, it seems that these agreements will only be the beginning of much broader relations between the two countries, the mutual interests and their joint wish to safeguard peace and security in Asia can bring them much closer.

At any rate, it is expected that during our president's visit to India, new fields of cooperation will be opened and the two countries' relations will become a good model for regional cooperation for independent countries in Asia.

Emami-Kashani Warns Against Spreading Rumors

LD1404161795 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 14 Apr 95

[First Friday sermon by Ayatollah Mohammad Emami-Kashani, spokesman of the Guardian Council, at Tehran University on 14 April—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [passage omitted]

Infidels and polytheists [in the early days of Islam] used to start rumors and spread them. Today it is world arrogance, with more power and more extensive propaganda machinery. Today the masterminds [of the rumors] are the White House and Tel Aviv. Of course, Israel does not merit a mention; they do not count; they are a bunch of people like an infected, malignant tumor in the region. But, at the same time, they behave very mischievously and wickedly. They are the designers of the rumors.

Who spreads the rumors? Their supporters, their lackeys, their mercenaries. Then [in the early days of Islam] it was the hypocrites. [passage omitted] Now it is both the present day hypocrites [Mojahedin-e Khalq] and those who are not with the revolution. Why are they not with the revolution? They are wrong. They do not know what a country and future this system and revolution has built. In any case, they act as tools and tell [the rumors to] Muslims. [passage omitted]

The masterminds are known—they are following up the matter—and the hypocrites are a bunch of miserable people who are disgraced mercenaries and who spread those tales. A large majority of the people of Iran are alert and laugh at the rumors.

But those who have little faith are in danger. Of course our society is vigilant. If it were not so it could not deal with so many plots and so much enemy propaganda. But despite all the vigilance—and this debate is important for all Muslims and all Islamic countries and societies, as it is not limited to the case of Iran and the Islamic republic—it is necessary to improve people's awareness and culture. What does this mean? When you hear a rumor being spread, even though it might be from a simpleton—because you are not an agent of the White House nor the hypocrites—tell them it is a lie. And don't repeat it elsewhere. It is an Islamic order that if a rumor is being spread against Islam and the order, you should ask those in charge. [passage omitted]

In the holy verse [of the Koran] the term those in charge is in reference to imams, peace be upon them. But during the great occultation of the imam of time [12th Shiite "hidden" imam] may God hasten his return, events, news, debates, and political issues which are of concern to the Islamic world, you should report to those in charge. The simpleton should quickly refer the issue to someone who is in touch with those in charge. [passage omitted]

If someone is spreading rumors, you should not say that you don't know enough and that only God knows the truth. You should say that the rumors are the work of the usurping Zionist regime, the White House, and the hypocrites. You should take firm and religious action. The [first Shiite imam] commander of the faithful, peace be upon him, was engaged with such things. When you refer to [his book] the Nahjol Balaqeh, you see how much he was taken by such affairs. He states them in several sermons. [passage omitted]

The whole Islamic nation, in particular the great Iranian nation, is responsible for standing against the plots of the arrogant world and the mercenaries who spread rumors. This was a short discussion concerning rumors. [passage omitted]

Military Plane Crashes During Army Day Air Show

LD1804093495 Tehran IRNA in English 0805 GMT 18 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, April 18, IRNA—A military plane crashed in south of Tehran Tuesday [18 April] morning. The plane crashed while participating in an air show on the Army Day.

Early reports on the crashed aircraft said that parts of the military plane hit the court yard of a school in southern Tehran, injuring one student.

The unconfirmed report added that the pilot of the aircraft lost his life in the incident.

IRNA reporters immdiately rushed to the site of the crash where a team of relief workers are collecting debris of the plane.

Cause of the crash is not known yet.

Crash Due to Technical Fault

LD1804100895 Tehran IRNA in English 1002 GMT 18 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, April 18, IRNA—An informed military source announced that a training aircraft crashed because of technical failure while trying to land at Tehran's Mehrabad Airport Tuesday [18 April] morning.

Debris from the plane hit a residential quarter in southwestern Tehran, injuring three persons including a woman. The pilot of the plane lost his life in the mishap.

Investigations are under way by Iranian experts to find out reasons for the crash.

Pakistan

Second Suspect in Murder U.S. Diplomats Killed

BK1704152195 Hong Kong AFP in English 1443 GMT 17 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Karachi, April 17 (AFP)—A second suspect in last month's killing of two American diplomats was killed here Monday [17 April] while trying to escape from the police, Pakistani investigators said.

Nadeem Commando, a member of the breakaway Haqiqi faction of the ethnic-based Mohajir Qaumi Movement (MQM), was killed by police in the eastern district of the city, they said.

His accomplice, Sohail Nadeem, was arrested and he identified the body, police said.

MQM represents the large Urdu-speaking settler community in Karachi. The party split in 1992 after an Army crackdown against militants in the organization.

Nadeem Commando was one of four suspects in the March 8 killing of two American diplomats in Karachi. Another diplomat was injured in the attack.

Earlier this month, the first suspect, Mohammed Uzair, was killed by unidentified gunmen. His assailants have not been found.

Pakistani investigators said Nadeem Commando was also suspected of involvement in at least 12 terrorist cases in Karachi over the past year and had been high on the wanted list. Weapons were recovered from both men.

Investigators said both Uzair and Nadeem Commando were members of the Haqiqi faction, but added that the killing of the American diplomats may have been an independent contract killing.

A team from the US Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) has been assisting the probe into the assassination of the two Americans.

Reaction to, Commentary on Bhutto U.S. Visit

Cabinet Hails 'Success'

BK1704134195 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1300 GMT 17 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Federal Cabinet, which met in Islamabad today, unanimously adopted a resolution appreciating the success of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto in highlighting the Kashmir dispute and obtaining a positive response from the United States to conduct an active policy on Kashmir. In the absence of the prime minister, the meeting was held under the chairmanship of Defense Minister Mr. Aftab Shaban Mirani.

The resolution felicitated the prime minister on her successful official visit to the United states. The resolution says that as a result of the prime minister's endeavor, the United states has at the highest level acknowledged that the Pressler Amendment was unfair and discriminatory. The American president is now committed to support measures to amend the discriminatory Pressler law.

The visit also succeeded in defining Pakistan's relations with the United States in the post Cold War era and setting a new direction in Pakistan-U.S. relations. These relations will now revolve around investment and trade facilities, not aid and partnership, not dependency.

The Cabinet noted that the prime minister's efforts have broken Pakistan's international isolation, which only two years ago was manifested in attempts by our enemies to declare Pakistan a narco state and a terrorist state. Instead of being targeted on these grounds, Pakistan is now considered a front line state in the struggle against terrorism and drug trafficking.

The decisions of the Cabinet were explained by a government spokesman, Mr. Hussain Haqqani, this afternoon. Announcing the decisions, he said the Cabinet in its meeting approved the signing of a memorandum of understanding with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for cooperation to combat drug trafficking. Under the memorandum of understanding, the two countries will exchange relevant information about the operation regarding illicit trafficking of narcotics, drugs, and psychotropic substances. The Cabinet also ratified a treaty of friendship and cooperation signed with Bosnia-Herzegovina. Under the treaty, the two sides agreed to promote cooperation in the economic, commercial, industrial, scientific and other fields.

Ambassador's Comments

BK1804012995 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 17 Apr 95 p 10

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad—United States should on its own lift the sanctions imposed on Pakistan for allegedly receiving M-II missiles from China, Pakistan's ambassador to Washington Dr Maleeha Lodhi said here on Sunday.

"We will not ask for the lifting (of the sanctions), it is entirely up to [the] United States to do it," she said while talking informally to journalists at Islamabad airport. She said United States had lifted the category two sanctions against "alleged supplier," the China and should now do the same for Pakistan, the "alleged recipient".[sentence as published] She described as "highly successful," the visit of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto to [the] United States where she secured Washington's support at the highest level on Islamabad's principled positions on Kashmir problem and Pressler amendment.

"It vindicates our position," she added. Dr Maleeha Lodhi said it was a unique visit as Prime Minister had met with the representatives of all policy-making sectors in United States including US officials, congressmen, mediamen and universities."

Shahnaz Wazir Ali, Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Social Sector, said it was for the first time that a Pakistani Prime Minister had been able to change the dimension of US policy towards Pakistan and South Asia. She did it merely on the basis of strong arguments on all the vital issues like F-16s, Pressler amendment and Kashmir. When she told the Congressmen and Senators that [the] US had withheld both the money and F-16 aircraft and that Pakistan had been treated unjustly, they were convinced of her irrefutable arguments. President Clinton, she said, himself conceded that Pakistan did not get the fair treatment. Clinton administration admitted that [the] Pressler law was discriminatory and he would approach Congress to revise it.

On [the] Kashmir dispute, Pakistan's plea was accepted that its political solution was required before progress on any other issue. Shahnaz Wazir Ali said US public opinion had been moulded in favour of Pakistan. Many of the eminent US persons, she said, were not aware that US had not delivered F-16s even after payment by Pakistan.

Federal Labour and Overseas Pakistanis Minister, Ghulam Akbar Lasi said, it was a highly successful US visit by a Pakistani chief executive. He paid tributes to the Prime Minister for having pleaded the case of Kashmir to the US administration in a convincing and logical manner. "The visit will yield positive results", she hoped. Sindh Chief Minister Syed Abdullah Shah offering his comments said, the very fact that Pakistan was able to make the US administration realise that the Pressler amendment was discriminatory and that an unfair treatment was being meted out to Pakistan by keeping its money and F-16s "is a singular achievement, hence has assured results", "trade, not aid, and dignity, not dependence" have been projected as ideals by Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, which reflects the committed and patriotic principles followed by the elected government, he stated.

Barrister Javed Khan said, he held meetings with the Interior Minister and Director FBI while in Washington. "It has been a highly rewarding visit, on more than one counts" he added.

Editorial Views Results

BK1504103895 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 15 Apr 95 p 7

[Editorial: "The end result"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The joint communique issued at the end of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's visit to the US is not exactly a document for Pakistan to go into rhapsodies over. But neither does it necessitate ringing the mourning bells. True, the Kashmir issue—about which the US insists on a negotiated settlement between India and Pakistan—looks incomplete without mention of the UN Security Council resolutions, and in view of Delhi's long record of refusing to discuss the problem even within the bilateral framework. But the consolation is that the joint statement does talk of the Kashmiris' right to self-determination and of Kashmir being a disputed territory.

This is an open contradiction of the Indian stand that Kashmir is an inseparable part of the Union, and that the freedom movement, demanding the right to be free of Delhi's subjugation, is Pakistan-supported terrorism. In any case, the joint communique could not have possibly reflected only the point of view of Pakistan on an issue like Kashmir, on which Washington, too, has its own clear-cut policy preferences. In international politics wishes of individual states can never be commands for others. There is always bargaining and give and take—the essence of fine diplomacy.

On the Pressler Amendment the Bill Clinton administration has come out more clearly and forthrightly. It has said that it intends to "work with the Congress to revise the Pressler Amendment to facilitate strong relationship with Pakistan..." This is the first time that Washington has formally accepted the reality of the redundancy of the Amendment and expressed the resolve to revise the law that has hung over its ties with Pakistan like an ominous shadow. The express desire for a revision, in fact, was first articulated by President Bill Clinton during the course of the Bhutto visit, when he also admitted that Pakistan was wronged under the Amendment.

As things stand now, it remains in the realm of pure conjecture how and when the American administration's intention of a revision of the Pressler Amendment is to translate into reality. But straws in the wind do suggest a concerted effort in the making to overcome this hurdle by evolving consensus within Congress. In this behalf the Republican leader Bob Dole's sympathetic remarks about Pakistan and his acceptance of the argument that the Pressler Amendment has given Pakistan a raw deal, is significant to note. Also important are the slow but steady moves by the Energy, Commerce and Defence departments to ram the point home in Congress to the defenders of the Amendment that the law does limit the growth potential of their ties with Pakistan.

It will take time, a lot of ground work, and sincerity of purpose on the part of the Clinton administration to have its way on the Pressler Amendment in a hostile Congress. The best that Pakistan can do in the meanwhile is to patiently wait and see how and when Washington's good-will in the joint communique begins to reflect in real policy.

Reaction to U.S. View of Iran as 'Terrorist State'

Foreign Minister Comments

LD1704153895 Tehran IRNA in English 1357 GMT 17 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad, Apr 17, IRNA—Pakistan enjoys excellent relations with Iran and it does not subscribe to the views of the United States that the Islamic Republic is a "terrorist state," Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali said here on Monday.

"We don't share their views," he told a press conference when asked about the reported interview of US President Clinton accusing Iran of sponsoring terrorism.

"We are not entiled [as received] to American views on Iran," he added.

He said the question of Iran's "terrorism" did not come up for discussion during Clinton's meetings with Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto who recently visited Washington.

Clinton in his interview to Cable News Network said that he would take up the issue of Iran's "terrorism" with all world leaders he meets.

"We have best of the relations with Iran and these will remain so," he added.

Answering a question, he reiterated that Pakistan's nuclear programme was meant absolutely for peaceful purposes but it would not allow inspection of its nuclear installations unilaterally.

He said Pakistan did not agree with the procedures, laid down by the US Congress, to verify the status of a country's nuclear programme.

"We have to sit down and discuss the issue with India," he said when asked whether Pakistan would open its nuclear facilities for international inspection if Delhi did.

"It is a bilateral issue and we are ready to talke with India on all issues," he added.

He said Pakistan had not signed the treaty but would do it if its arch-rival India did.

'Islamic World' To Consider Remark

BK1804033995 Islamabad KHABRAIN in Urdu 16 Apr 95 p 4

[Editorial: "The U.S. President's Threat to Iran... A Moment of Thought for the Islamic World"]

[FBIS Translated Text] U.S. President Bill Clinton has stated that Iran is the greatest threat to durable peace in the Middle East and he is considering the imposition of strict sanctions against that country. In a television interview, the U.S. President said: We are considering all aspects; we should take strong measures in this regard.

President Clinton said he expects his officials to recommend imposing sanctions on Iran. The United States wants to prevent Iran from becoming a nuclear power and abetting terrorism. The United States has also held talks with other countries; all are in favor of imposing sanctions against Iran because "in the future Iran will be the greatest threat and the greatest cause of instability in the region."

The United States has viewed Iran with doubt and suspicion only since the collapse of the autocratic rule of the shah. The United States was furious with the treatment meted out by the government of the late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni to U.S. diplomats after the Iranian revolution. U.S. forces tried to attack Tehran with helicopters to release those U.S. diplomats, but nature was in favor of the revolutionary government of Iran and the U.S. helicopters were caught in a desert storm in the (Sos) desert. They collided with one another, causing heavy losses in U.S. lives and property.

Recently, Iran purchased a nuclear reactor and some submarines from Russia. Ever since, the United States has been raising a hue and cry that Iran is making an all-out effort to acquire a nuclear capability. Now the U.S. President has categorically announced that the United States will take action against Iran. Although President Clinton has not spelled out the nature of the action, it is clear from his interview that attempts will be made to impose tough sanctions against Iran similar to those imposed on Iraq. In addition to inflicting economic damage on Iran, military action cannot be ruled out.

In response to the U.S. President's interview, Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani has stated that Iran is prepared to sever all ties with the United States. In an address to the nation over radio and television, the Iranian president said Iran will also snap all economic ties with the United States in retaliation for the U.S. action. It is clear from the Iranian president's determination that Iran is already expecting some U.S. action and that President Rafsanjani addressed his people over radio and television to prepare them to meet U.S. pressure and sanctions.

The countries facing mounting U.S. pressure for alleged "fundamentalist" activities include Iran and Libya as well as Pakistan. Addressing his party's workers in Lahore on Friday, Awami National Party chief Khan Abdul Wali Khan said the United States is going to launch an operation against Iran. To consolidate the Pakistani people's opinion against Iran, the impression is being created that the Iranian Government's hand is behind the sectarian clashes in Pakistan. Meanwhile, Prince Reza Pahlavi, the heir to the Iranian throne, has appealed to Israel to help him obliterate the Islamic government of Iran. All of this indicates that the United States is preparing to take action against Iran.

The U.S. President's direct threat against Iran and the previous action against Libya provide a moment of thought for the countries of the Islamic world. The United States has become the only superpower; the world's "policeman." It does not want any country, especially a Muslim country, to muster the nerve to look it in the eye. Due to its nuclear program, Pakistan is currently the only country in the Islamic world that can impede the U.S. Government's goal of establishing a sort of "hegemony" in the region. Therefore, to tame Pakistan, the United States has on one side begun a conspiracy to weaken Islamabad militarily, and on the other is bent on eliminating Pakistan's nuclear program through intense pressure. Along with this, there are also schemes to bring Pakistan's economy under the absolute control of the United States through the lure of U.S. investor "dollars" that are arriving in the form of memorandums of understanding. If the Pakistani Government does not oblige U.S. designs regarding our nuclear program, these investment "understandings" may be ended.

Iran has attempted to set up a nuclear reactor with Russian assistance. The United States is displeased with this. The Islamic world should ponder this state of affairs and adopt a common strategy to get rid of U.S. global hegemony. If a path of deviation, complacency, and "personal interests" is pursued in this regard, the fate of the Islamic world will be worse than that of Spain and Baghdad. In particular, the Pakistani Government should confront U.S. pressure through national cohesion and people's power and resist becoming a U.S. subordinate.

U.S. 'Campaign Against Iran' Seen

BK1604110395 Islamabad THE NATION in English 16 Apr 95 p 6

[Editorial: "A throwback to the cold war"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The US campaign against Iran continues unabated and may even have picked up momentum after President Clinton's statement that Iran still poses the biggest threat to stability in the Middle East and that he was considering stronger sanctions against Tehran. The US is attempting to isolate Iran, which Washington accuses of seeking to become a nuclear power and supporting terrorism. Regarding the former charge, the US has been trying to discourage China and Russia from supplying nuclear technology to Iran even for peaceful purposes and under IAEA [International Atomic Energy Agency] safeguards because, as President Clinton candidly put it. "We don't want Iran to have anything, anything that could enable it to move towards developing nuclear capacity." On the latter, Iran's open opposition to the current Middle East peace process, which it considers preponderantly weighted in favour of Israel and against the Palestinians and Arabs, and its political support to rejectionist tendencies has earned it Washington's ire. The US President, as part of his anti-Iran campaign, recently blocked a $1 billion deal between an American company and Iran for offshore oil development. The administration's efforts to have the embargo on Iranian oil being sold in the US extended to a total trade ban, faces stiff resistance from other countries as well as American business, which has quietly become one of Iran's leading trading partners. In 1994 direct and indirect trade between the US and Iran totalled over $4 billion, while American companies buy almost a third of Iran's oil, which they refine and sell to Europe. That is why President Rafsanjani feels confident while demanding that Washington stop its anti-Iran campaign. He has advised American leaders to reconsider their poor interpretations and mistaken actions as well as their historic errors on Iran and expressed his country's readiness to break off all economic ties with the US, which he knows would hurt American business more than Iran.

The question that arises from this overt and unremitting American hostility to Iran is: what is it the US wants? It seems the exigencies of ensuring an uninterrupted flow of oil to the West from the Gulf have got mixed up with the bogey of another Muslim country having the nuclear bomb, a country which is implacably opposed to the American agenda for the Middle East. Having demolished the other major military power in the Gulf, Iraq, Iran today is among the leading targets of Western hostility as part of a hate campaign against the 'new' enemy—Islam and Muslims—painted as they have tended to be of late in the Western media as fanatics and terrorists to a man. The American military-Industrial complex may need a new enemy to justify spending on more and more arms and thereby keep the armaments factories of the West humming long after the cold war is over, but this might impel the US in a direction that can only damage its interests in the long run in the Muslim world. Where its policies or interests coincide, as for example the turning a blind eye by the White House to Iranian arms supplies to the Bosnian Muslims in contravention of the UN arms embargo and in the hope that it may help to level the field against the Bosnian Serbs, Washington has not been averse to 'accommodation'. Where such large American business interests are tied up with Iran, with the promise of expanded trade, why cannot the US review its pathological hatred and attempt a pragmatic engagement on trade and other issues. Who knows, that may facilitate a dialogue on the Middle East and other issues of discord between the two sides. This policy thrust appears more in consonance with the changed post-cold war global agenda than the kind of jingoistic anti-Iran war cries emanating from Washington which sound like a throwback to a bygone era. The US and its allies would be making a very big mistake if they continue to tread the path of blind confrontation with an important Gulf country they may not agree with on many issues. What Pakistan needs to ensure is that our present drive to improve relations with the US does not end up placing us on the side of those who seek to pillory Iran and other Muslim countries against which the US has virtually declared open season.

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